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THE
JOURNAL OF PENROSE.

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JOURNAL OF PENROSE

CALEDONIAN MERCURY PRESS,
EDINBURGH, 1815.

THE
JOURNAL
OF
LLEWELLIN PENROSE,
A
SEAMAN.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET,
AND WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, EDINBURGH.

1815.

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THE

JOURNAL

OF

THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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TO

BENJAMIN WEST, ESQ.

MY DEAR SIR,

I most willingly avail myself of your kind permission, to dedicate to you the Narrative now offered to the Public. I venture to urge this request, not only because your intimate knowledge of the Author, and the circumstance of his having communicated to you many of the facts recorded in it, seemed to require it of me, but also because the

respect which the public have long entertained for your virtues and talents, might excite an interest for a work which has the sanction of your name. If I can induce the world to read the following pages, I am not fearful of the result of its judgment. It was a subject of pleasing recollection to my father, that this extraordinary Narrative first led him to your acquaintance; and I am happy that the honour has been extended to myself. From your conversation I have received both pleasure and instruction; and permit me, my dear Sir, to add, that the kindness which I have experien-

ced from you, renders me more devoted to an art which boasts in you a Professor so liberal and enlightened. May you long continue in the enjoyment of the distinction which your merit has obtained.

I am, my dear Sir, with great respect and esteem, your most faithful and obedient Servant,

JOHN EAGLES.

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I am, my dear Sir, with great re-
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JOHN WATLES

ADVERTISEMENT.

SOME years since an old man, who had apparently seen better days, applied to my father for charitable relief. His language and address bore a character of interest that must have struck the least minute observer. My father was, however, a man of discrimination, as well as feeling, who seeing how ill the superior cultivation of his mind adapted him for the common receptacle for paupers, (which was his object) supplied his immediate wants ; which benevo-

lence continuing from time to time, he was so much charmed with his good sense and conversation, that he became much attached to him. He supplied him with the necessaries of life, and after some time, was enabled to place him comfortably in the Merchants' Alms House in this city, endowed for the reception of decayed mariners, where, with some weekly addition to the allowance of the charity, he was placed much above want. Here he enjoyed several years of tranquillity. He was beloved by all our family; and such was the kindness with which my father treated him, that I have often, when a boy, seen the old man sit at

our table with the familiarity of an old friend. In this asylum he died, and left to my father all he was possessed of. And let not the reader smile at his legacy, for it was not to be despised; it consisted of many volumes of books, collections of prints, MSS., in particular the following Narrative. It was not in my father's disposition to make inquiries into the details of private history, especially when it was probable they would excite painful sensations; it is not to be wondered at, therefore, that he did not make himself acquainted with circumstances, the knowledge of which would now be so interesting.

It was extraordinary that a man of

such a turn of mind, and with property of such a description, should have looked for an asylum among paupers. It was fortunate he met with a person so capable of appreciating his merits, and preserving to the world the Narrative bequeathed to him. But the incident which happily led to a more accurate knowledge of him, was as interesting as it was unexpected. As an account of it, I insert a memorandum found among my father's papers, dated 10th July 1805.

“Mr Annesly brought Mr West to my lodgings; he dipped into Penrose's Journal, and read several pages in different parts. I was from home

when he came, but returned time enough to give him an account of the author. He seemed very attentive to my history of Williams, and put several questions to me ; he said every answer I gave tended to confirm his opinion. “ Sir,” said he, “ I have looked at several parts of this book, and much that I have seen I know to be true ; I knew the man too, and what is more extraordinary, had it not been for him I should never have been a painter. It happened thus. I had a relation at Philadelphia of the name of Pennington, whom I used frequently to visit while there. I saw a person carrying a picture, a landscape, the first I

believe I had ever seen ; I was very much struck with it, and desired the person to shew it to me ; he did, and asked me if I was fond of painting, and if I was, desired me to come to his house and he would shew me other things. I saw there some cattle pieces, admired them, and inquired how he could paint them so accurately. He said he would show me the secret, and took a small box, which proved to be a camera ; he shewed me the construction of it. I went home, and was not at rest till I had made one for myself, and my father gave the glass out of an old pair of spectacles to complete it. My delight was then to go into the farm

yards, and by means of my camera, draw the cattle, &c. I knew that Williams had seen many of the things he describes in the Journal, and he gave me the same account of them. He first lent me the lives of the painters, which confirmed my inclination for the art. On my return from Italy, I sent to my friends in America my picture, as a remembrance of me, I had painted whilst abroad. I received a letter from Williams, for that was his name, with a complimentary copy of verses, in which he was pleased to flatter me very highly; but what is more extraordinary, the lines may be considered as prophetic of my future success in life.

which it anticipates. I have his letter and the verses by me now somewhere. I take it he adopted the name of Penrose * from a great ship-builder of that name, who was a great friend of his. Williams afterwards came to England. I was of some service to him in London, but of a sudden missed him from town ; and on inquiring, I believe, of one Smith, an engraver, who knew him well, he told me he was gone to Bristol, as he was very poor, and had almost lost his eye sight, to claim

* Nothing is more common among seafaring men, than the adoption of the names of their particular friends, instead of their own.

some provision to which he was entitled from the parish. I was struck with this coincidence with the history of Williams; it induced me to put further questions concerning him, which confirmed my opinion that it was my old friend's composition that was before me, and what you had shewn me of the lives of the painters, I know to be his hand writing." *

13th, saw Mr West again. He said, "Perhaps I am the only person in existence who could give any account of Williams's life and manners. He first came to Virginia from London, in a ship commanded by Cap-

* The MS. shewn Mr West was copied by my father from the original.

tain Hunter. Between this time and his appearance at Philadelphia, when I first met with him, was an interval of more than twenty years, which time I consider him to have passed in the adventures related in the Journal.” I likewise find a letter from Mr West to my father, wherein he makes the following mention of the Author.

“ From the year 1747 to 1760, my attention was directed to every point necessary to accomplish me for the profession of painting. This often brought me to the house of Williams, and as he was an excellent actor in taking off character; he often, to amuse me, repeated his adventures

among the Indians, many of which adventures were strictly the same as related in your manuscript of Penrose, as was also his description of the scenery of the coasts, the birds on them, in particular the Flamingo Birds, which he described, when seen at a distance, as appearing like companies of soldiers dressed in red uniforms. He spoke the language of the savages, and appeared to me to have lived among them some years. I often asked him how he came to be with them; he replied, he had gone to sea when young, but was never satisfied with that pursuit; that he had been shipwrecked, and thrown into great difficulties, but Providence

had preserved him through a variety of dangers. He told me he imbibed his love for painting when at a grammar school in Bristol, where his greatest delight was to go and see an elderly artist who painted heads in oil, as well as small landscapes."

I have given this account of the Author, thinking it might be interesting to the public. I avoid being lavish of idle commendations of the work, which will speak for itself.

JOHN EAGLES.

THE
JOURNAL OF PENROSE.

CHAP. I.

SHOULD the following Journal ever reach my dear native country, I must intreat the reader not to expect any persuasive arguments to enforce belief, or language to adorn the story. I have neither skill for the one, or learning for the other. My education did not exceed that of a common country school; I was thrown early into life; was obliged to think, and act much for myself; experience gave me knowledge and confidence; it induced a

habit of reflection, and taught me to accommodate myself to things and circumstances, which a refined education would at least have rendered more painful. With naturally a good constitution, I had that pliancy of temper, which on many occasions carried me through difficulties, and enabled me to encounter dangers, that a more irritable disposition would have found insurmountable. I shall tell my story in plain and simple terms; and begin with a faithful narrative of every occurrence within my memory, from the day of my birth, to the time I first left my native country to cross the Atlantic.

LLEWELLIN PENROSE is my name; I was born near Caerphilly, in Glamorganshire, in the month of May 1725; my father was bred to the sea, and was cast away in a ship belonging to Bristol, called the Union frigate, commanded by Captain Williams, who was his countryman, in the great January storm, off the Texel in Hol-

land. Of a fleet consisting of near sixty sail, only one Dutch dogger, which lay without, rode out the storm, all the rest perished. My mother thus left a widow, with two children, myself and a sister five years younger, after a time married again. Her second husband was a schoolmaster; she removed with him into Worcestershire, then into Monmouthshire, and after that into Wales.

I may justly say this man was the innocent, or rather obstinate cause of the many hardships I have since suffered. The influence he had over my mother's judgment, gave him the sole direction in every thing that concerned her children.

I had been flattered and caressed by my mother from my infancy; she had attended to all my early propensities, with a view of assisting my inclinations, in a permanent settlement for life. I was particularly fond of the sea, and was delighted with the accounts my father used to give of

his different voyages. I had some little talent for drawing. Most of my early sketches were of boats and ships sailing in several directions. From this charming art I have derived great consolation, in various situations of my life; in the practice of it I have soothed many a bitter hour. The moment I took my pen or pencil in my hand, my cares were forgotten, my mind became calm, and I enjoyed a respite from every solicitude.

On my mother's second marriage, all my dreams of happiness vanished; my pursuits were counteracted, my amusements checked, and my inclinations no longer flattered, or even attended to. In short it was decided by my father-in-law, that I should be placed with a lawyer, a profession I was particularly averse to. My mother, in this, as in every other instance, submitted entirely to his judgment, and gave me lectures, day after day, on the duty of submission to those who knew what

was best for me. I grew tired of these perpetual remonstrances ; I detested the law, and had a decided preference for the sea. I acquainted them with my resolution, with a decent firmness which they saw was not to be trifled with. Considering that my choice was more the effect of whim and caprice than of any natural tendency to that mode of life, they consented that I should go a voyage by way of trial ; hoping that the experiment would prove favourable to their wishes, and wean me from all further inclinations that way. After I had made three or four small trips, they renewed their dissuasions, and tried by every possible means to bring me to their way of thinking. Their opposition increased my attachment to the sea ; I grew more obstinate, and finding no abatement of persecution on their parts, I was resolved to put an end to all further altercation, and embark on my own ac-

count, without waiting for their consent or approbation.

I had a companion, whose name was Howell Gwynn; a similarity of disposition, an equally strong desire of roving and love of adventure, had united us in strict friendship. It was now war time; we entered into an agreement to give our parents the slip, and try our fortunes in our own way; we conducted our affairs so artfully, that not a soul knew, or had the least suspicion of our elopement.

Here let me pause for a few moments, and acknowledge, with sincere contrition and many tears, the anguish of mind which the recollection of this step has occasioned in many subsequent periods of my life. The distress which my disobedience inflicted on a kind and tender mother, sunk deep into my heart; it has haunted me at all times, and in every situation; it has damped my joys; it has

aggravated my sorrows; it has made me consider the many evils which has befallen me as the just visitations of heaven on filial ingratitude. I write this as a warning to others, to avoid the sorrows, the compunctions I have experienced, and to assure them, that even in this world, the contempt of parental authority does not go without severe and exemplary punishment.

Having found means to convey our clothes and other trifles away, with no more than four shillings in money, and a very thin wardrobe, we set off from our parents' houses very early in the morning, in the month of September, in the year 1744, to make the best of our way for Bristol. We took care to evade all inquiries, by going the cross roads, and sleeping in barns or stables, now and then begging a morsel of bread and cheese at farm houses, pretending that we had been cast away, in order to make our

money last the longer. As we passed through the village of Pile, we met a young man who had just returned from a cruise, in which he had been unsuccessful; he advised us to go back to our parents, and not think of adventuring to sea, where the advantages were by no means adequate to the dangers and difficulties we should have to encounter. We considered that our reception at home would not be very agreeable, and resolved to proceed on our journey, which we accomplished; and on our arrival at Bristol, found that our stock of money was reduced to three-halfpence.

The first thing we did was to find out the quay; in our way to which place, we met a young man who was a kind of relation to me, and a sailor likewise; he was much pleased with our determination, and undertook to get us births. The city was filled with privateers' men; my cousin took us to a rendezvous in the

quay, the sign of the White Lion and Horse-shoe. We had not been long in the house before my companion Howell was persuaded to enter; but I had a greater mind to become a good seaman, than to commence hero all at once, and therefore evaded all their temptations. In this I followed the advice of my kinsman, who observed, that it would be better for me take a trip with him to Ireland, than to remain in a strange place without money.

My companion Gwynn took his leave of me, and set off for Hungroad, where he was to join his ship; and from that hour we never met more. I remained all the evening with my cousin, and found him to be a fine hearty fellow, though somewhat too fond of grog. As I was no way inclined to drinking, I left him and his company, and went up stairs to sleep on a rush bottom couch, in the fore room. Before I was well asleep, I was

roused by a most sad outcry of a boy, as I believed, under a most severe discipline. My alarm was greatly increased, by the most horrid imprecations from the person who was inflicting the punishment. Hearing him soon after go down stairs, I resolved to follow him, and endeavour to find my cousin. As I pushed along the passage, I observed a small light gleaming from a room on the right hand, and at the same time heard a soft voice call to me, and beg me for God's sake to come in. I entered the chamber, and saw, as I thought, a very beautiful young woman standing before me almost naked, but in a gore of blood. I was retiring; she intreated me to stay a few moments, and began to inform me, that her husband, in a fit of drunken jealousy, had beaten her terribly. My alarm was increased at hearing this, and by a sudden movement, very luckily, my candle went out. I offered to go down and light it, to which

she consented on my promise of returning. This I took care not to do, and fortunate it was for me that I did so resolve; for shortly after I heard the husband go up stairs again and repeat the dose with equal severity. I grouped my way into the fore parlour in order to rouse some of the snoring tars, but I might as well have spared myself the trouble; they were all so snugly moored in sot's bay, that it was out of my power to trip one of their anchors. At last I ran foul of a man in the entry, and found it to be my cousin. For God's sake said I let us get out of this house, I can stay no longer. Just at this moment the watchman passed; we took courage and hailed him; he bid us go to bed, if we were drunk, and be quiet;—we called out more loudly, *murder!* and desired him to knock at the door. Having procured the assistance of two brother watchmen, he thundered at the door to some purpose. We drew

back into the parlour on hearing Mr Bean, the furious landlord, coming down stairs with a candle; but no sooner had he opened the door than we rushed out, and told the watchmen that we greatly feared this fellow would murder his wife before the morning. We left them to settle the matter as they could. It was now about three o'clock, and we walked the streets till near six, when we entered another house called the Champion of Wales; there we got breakfast, and afterwards proceeded to the Gibb, where his boat lay, which, after purchasing a few necessary articles, took us down to Pile.

The wind coming round to the east, we stood down channel the next day, and took in a loading of coal at Neath, from whence we proceeded to Cork. On the passage I learned that my cousin was the object of our landlord Bean's jealousy, and that a tight battle had taken place between them, before I was disturbed.

On our arrival at Cork, as I was standing on the quay by the side of our vessel, a man suddenly seized me by the hand, and clapping my thumb between his teeth, threw me over his shoulder and carried me into the nearest public house, where he called for a quart of ale upon my head as a new import. I was not a little surprised at this, but some of our people following, laughed, and said it was the custom among the porters. This man's name, I well remember, was Billy Vane.

Soon after this my cousin desired me to go on shore with him to look out for a *brute*, as he usually called the ladies of pleasure. He was much in liquor, and remembering the adventure at Bristol, I desired to be excused. He upbraided me with ingratitude, repeating all that he had done for me; but I was more afraid of the consequence of such an excursion than of his anger, and resolved not to go. He then

told me I might march on shore and shift for myself, for that he had done with me. I took him at his word, left the vessel, and went on board a snow bound for London, to which place I worked my passage.

On coming to London I entered on board a privateer, not having a shilling in the world to help myself. This game I followed for some time with various success, and squandered my prize money on shore, much in the same manner that other sailors do. After this I was pressed, and shifted from one ship to another, till I found means to make my escape, going under different names, as best suited my purpose.

Thus I spent my time till the year 1746. I then shipped myself on board an old Indiaman, called the Harrington, bound for Jamaica; she lay at the Red House, Deptford, one Hunter commander. With what little cash I had left, I pur-

chased some few shirts and trowsers, a jacket, Scots bonnet, a pair of shoes, and a small seaman's chest. The ship fell down to Gravesend, from thence to the Downs; and there I experienced the first thunder storm I had ever been in on the salt water. The rain and the wind were so violent off the shore, that she was soon on her beam ends. As we were then getting under weigh, the flashes of lightning were so quick, that I could scarcely keep my eyes open; but it was of short duration. After this we proceeded to Spithead, there to wait for the convoy. In three or four days we put to sea, being about one hundred sail, bound to different ports. Our convoy was a ship called the old Chatham of fifty guns, our ship mounted twenty guns, with a letter of marque on board. We parted company in the Bay of Biscay, and proceeded alone. Nothing worthy notice happened on our passage, except that some of our main-top-men, during

the time we were exercising the great guns, chanced to set the mizzen top-mast stay-sail on fire, as they were busy in the main-top; but it was soon happily extinguished; nevertheless, it put all hands in a great hurry, as no misery can equal that of a ship on fire in the main ocean.

After this we made the islands of Antigua, Mountserrat, Nevis, and St Christophers, and passing between them we spoke with a French flag of truce. A few nights after, we ran in with the Isle of Vash on St Domingo, in a very dark night indeed, but saw it time enough to avoid any danger.

The next day we came abreast of the White Horses on the south shore of Jamaica: here the pilot came on board, and we got safe into Port Royal. I must observe that our first captain did not go the voyage with the ship, and Mr William James, then chief mate, took the command at Spithead.

During our stay here Admiral Davers died ; and as all the ships in the harbour were firing minute guns on the occasion, when it came to our turn one of the guns on the larboard-side discharged before its due time. I happened to be standing on the gang way, and saw a young man of the name of Palmer sinking ; the blood flew from his head and arms like a spout, and a piece of his skull I found in the main-chains. This unhappy young man had been sponging the gun, and left some of the old cartridge on fire within ; on ramming down another, it immediately took fire, and blew him to pieces, at the same time blasting the fingers of the boat-swain, which were held on the touch-hole.

About the latter end of November, having our full loading, we set sail for London ; but the Almighty was pleased to frustrate our intentions, and to disperse us in a wonderful manner. We beat to windward for several days, to little purpose ; at

length we carried away our fore-top-mast, top and all ; two of our hands went over-board with it, but saved their lives.

Our commander then proposed to bear away for Blewfields, to repair our damages. After we had got up a new top and top-mast, we put to sea, and bore away for the Gulph of Florida. Sometime after this, on a blustery night, we had like to have ran on shore on the Isle of Pines ; however we wore ship, and stood off again. From this time the weather proved very hazy, with small rains, and in this sort it continued until Christmas eve. Every mess was now busy in making puddings ; but, alas ! now began the prelude to our future troubles.

A squall arose about the second watch, and all hands were called out. It blew for about half an hour ; after this we jogged on under an easy sail until break of day. Little did I think at the time, that it would prove so fatal a Christmas day to me !

Our chief mate, Mr Ramage, shortly after he came on deck, spied a sail right ahead of us ; directly all hands were called to quarters, as she was lying-to, not two miles from us. Just as this happened, we discovered the Moro Castle, quite plain, under our lee. Now, as the enemy was stern-to, we could not judge of her force, nor did she seem to take the least notice of us ; and as we were in no kind of fear about her, we stood on. We soon came abreast of her, and found her to be a ship of force. She bore down into our wake, hoisted Spanish colours, and began to fire several random shot at us ; we directly ran out two stern-chases, and crowded all the sail we could ; but in a short time after, away went our main-top-gallant-mast ; and as the enemy then gained on us fast, our captain ordered the ensign to be hauled down.

The ship we struck to was a Spanish man of war, and called El Fuerto, mounting fifty guns, commanded by Captain Ma-

hony, a good-natured old Irishman. We were carried into the Havannah, and there our crew was divided on board of two men of war, viz. the Dragon and Conquestador; so that, I well remember, my Christmas dinner was changed from plumb puddings to horse beans and poor jerked beef.

In this place we remained prisoners, and had the grief and mortification to see flags of truce come in and go out every day; it being a practice for flags to visit the Spaniards from North America, laden with flour and other articles; and this trade was supported by the sneaking contrivance of their bringing and taking away one or two prisoners at a time, that by this low cunning the game might last the longer; whilst hundreds of his Majesty's loyal subjects were detained and forced to hard labour in the Moro Castle, carrying stones to repair their enemy's fortifications, against their wills.

Our employment on board the two ships

was picking of oakum, pumping ship, hoisting in their water, and the like. We had our birth allotted between two great guns on the lower deck. A proposal was made by some of the most experienced of our companions in captivity, to form a set of laws amongst ourselves, as well for our better preserving peace, as not to give any unnecessary offence to our enemies. To avoid this, it was determined never to mention the word Spaniard, but to substitute that of *Hoopstick* in its stead. By this means, we could talk freely about them at all times, as none of them understood English.

Another law was, strictly to observe the hours of ten in the morning and four in the evening, for getting rid of the vermin with which we greatly abounded. This law was so punctually observed, that if any one was found to transgress it, he was directly brought to the gun, where he received a good cobbing, *alias* ten and a puss on his posteriors with a barrel-stave.

The Spaniards took much pleasure in hearing us sing, or seeing us play at cards. Whenever a quarrel ensued, it was decided on shore by a boxing match, to the great derision of our enemies, as on such occasions they never failed to call them *Peros Engleses*, English dogs.

We were served every day with fresh beef from the town, but as poor as carrion; yet we had bread enough, so that we used to sell a part to the marines on board. They likewise took our money on shore, and bought roots or greens for us. Upon the whole, therefore, we did not fare badly.

Mass was performed by them regularly and decently every day. I wish I could make as good a report of my countrymen; but the truth is, they not only shewed no signs of religion, but, on the contrary, gave great offence to the Spaniards, by assembling below during the time of their devotions, singing and dancing, and making merry at their expence. For this some of

them were frequently laid in the stocks, which is done by laying the person on his back, with his neck in the hole, and a block under his head.

It happened, while we were there, that news came of the accession of Ferdinand to the throne of Spain, in consequence of which there were great rejoicings for several days ; medals were struck and thrown to the populace, bells jingled the whole time, and a castle was erected, in order to be attacked by an English ship drawn through the streets on a carriage. On her quarter deck was placed the figure of Admiral Vernon ; her rigging was hung with all kinds of fire-works ; so that, when she came to attack the castle, she was soon on fire, when poor Vernon was sacrificed to gratify their rancour. Thus ended this farcical pantomime

Every evening all the churches, castles, and batteries, were finely illuminated ; but our curiosity to see these fine sights had like

to have cost some of our people dear. As we were not suffered to go on shore on the town side, in the evenings we used to get up on the ship's tops to see the sights on shore. One night while we were aloft, and the Hoopsticks under us at prayers on the forecastle, no sooner had they done than they ran up on each side of the shrouds, and began beating the English as fast as they could come at them ; some ran down the stays, others fought their way down the shrouds, but no one could understand the meaning of this treatment. As many as could, got between decks ; at last we found the story to be thus.—In the fore-top was a small hurricane house for the captain of the top to sleep in ; in this place was the model of a ship, in which some of our people, through laziness, had watered. Unfortunately for us, she had a small hole in her bottom, and the urine ran down on the Hoopsticks as they were at prayers. It all blew over the next day, as they were

convinced it was not intended as an insult.

After we had been here for about six weeks, they thought proper to send us away in an old leaky sloop. The appointed day arrived, and she came alongside to take us on board, and then to proceed to Jamaica as a flag of truce. There were on board this vessel five or six Spaniards, with an Irish captain, who knew no more of the sea than a parson, and, to the best of my memory, about seventy of us.

We proceeded to beat through the old Straits of Bahama under a ship's nurse. The sloop worked so ill, that she had her wake ever on the weather-crutch, the pump continually going; this, added to our pilot's ignorance, made them at last give her in charge to our mate Mr Ramage, to navigate her to the island of New Providence.

In the course of our voyage we met with two sail, who took out a few of our people; the rest, by some means or other,

found that there was cash hidden in some water casks. This was imparted but to a few, and they took measures to secure the booty to themselves, and were resolved to defend it. The Spaniards were somehow or other informed of this; and just as we came abreast of Rose Island, near to New Providence, Ramage remonstrated with the men to restore the money, but they peremptorily and boldly denied having stolen it. At this time the wind died away, and the monied heroes insisted on having the boat hoisted out to go on shore, thinking that it was Providence itself. What they could not obtain by intreaty, they took by force, and left us to sink or swim as it might happen; but providentially the wind sprung up, or we had certainly all foundered. This breeze brought us into the port, just as the heroes were crossing over from Hog Island to the town. The captain immediately laid his complaint before Tinker, who was at that time governor, and as great a trickster as those the captain laid his charge

against, as report then went. Some of them were taken up and examined before his Excellency; but they had all found means to secrete the cash, except Frank Harris, with whom some of the dollars were found. This poor young fellow was, by the governor's orders, clapped into the fort; and after being several times obliged to ride on the wooden horse, was forced to enter as a grenadier.

In this place we rambled up and down, half naked and all friendless, without the means of present support, or the prospect of future assistance. I shall here give the reader a rough sketch of my person as I then appeared, viz. a long pair of ragged and narrow Spanish trowsers; a fragment of an old blue shirt, not enough to pass under my waistband; part of an old red handkerchief round my head, with my old blue bonnet, but without either shoe or stocking to my feet. This place being full of privateers, one way or other we all entered.

CHAP. II.

Not yet convinced of my folly, and drawing but little advantage from my past sufferings, in a fatal hour I entered on board a schooner, called the Recovery, of which one James Strike was commander, in the year 1747, on a cruize—against whom? alas! as it proved, against my poor self. Having obtained a few dudds, as the sailors term clothes, from the skipper, which were to be paid for out of our prize money, I considered, that as I was going with a set of people whose manners were very different from those of my own countrymen, I might as well provide myself with hooks

and lines for my profit, as well as pleasure, on the cruize. I accordingly laid in a store of these, and other trifling articles. We sailed out at the east end, as they term it, and after a short time came to at an island called Andross. Here we staid but a short time, then stood away for another island called the Bimmeny, above one hundred miles west of Providence. The batteau, or canoe, was now hoisted out ; we were all in high spirits. Some of our officers went on shore with fowling-pieces ; in the mean time, others of the crew fell to fishing. This life was perfectly agreeable to my mind. In the evening our people came down on the shore, and the boat went and brought them off, but not in so good a condition as when they left us ; for it happened that one of them, rambling about by himself, and not being perceived by another, who was then taking aim at a bird, received part of the shot in a very tender part. He was almost mad with the smart

for a time ; but he was with a set of people who were not very compassionate, and who turned his sufferings into ridicule and diversion : when he was brought on board, the doctor restored him in a few days.

From hence we crossed the Gulph for the Florida Keys, and on one of them our people shot three birds, such as I had never before seen. They were, when erect, near six feet high, and red as vermilion ; the neck and legs being extremely long, but the body no bigger than a fat hen. We had plenty of rum on board, but I observed not the least economy amongst the crew ; and indeed I began myself to relish it pretty well ; and I shall here give the reader a specimen of our frugality and temperance. At Key-west, where there is plenty of water, we determined to spend a few hours at the sign of the fountain, as we termed the spring. Some of our most valiant pot-heroes took flasks of rum and a quantity of sugar on shore, and, seating themselves

round the well, discharged the rum and sugar into it: of this mighty bowl I partook. When it grew weaker, we replenished with spirits, till the greater part, by hooping, jumping, and singing, grew tired and fell asleep. N. B. These wells are casks sunk in the sand, with holes bored through them.

While we lay snoring on the grass, the man at the helm cried out, a sail, ho! We were soon awake, and hurried on board; and, what was more extraordinary, in a few minutes every man appeared to be perfectly sober—so great an effect had this alarm on our spirits. The sail appeared to the southward, and we gave chase under all the sail we could crowd right large. We chased her the whole evening without gaining the least upon her. The next morning she was out of sight, having altered her course. We then hauled our wind and stood in-shore again. Shortly after this we discovered some of the savages

coming down ; but as they were too shy to come on board, we ran in closer, and some of our valiant heroes took the whim of firing on them,—a most brutal and cruel resolution, at once the extreme of barbarity and cowardice. While they were at this game the schooner got aground ; the skipper began to rave, and ordered all the tallest of the crew overboard to shove her off again. Their courage upon this began to ebb, as they were fearful of being wrecked upon that inhospitable shore ; but they soon hove her off.

The next day we saw two sail in the offing, and gave chase. We came up with them in the evening : they proved to be two small sloops of no value ; we therefore took the hands out, and set them on fire. The wind fell, and it became a dead calm ; so that it was astonishing to see the columns of smoke which rose from them. After this we stood away for the west end of Cuba, and there landed our prisoners. In this latitude we

cruised for some time, when one day the man cried, ' a sail on the weather bow !' We directly gave chase ; but as she was going large, we soon got the wind of her. The chase then began to crowd all the sail she could make ; but we overhauled and got within cannon shot of her about five in the evening. She proved to be a Spanish ship of fourteen guns, and engaged us for about two glasses. We had three men killed and seven wounded : she shot away our jib-stay and two of our shrouds. This put us in some confusion ; and during the time it took in putting stoppers on them, she hauled her wind and ran for it. We soon made after, but lost her in the night ; in the morning she could not be seen from the mast head. This day we were in the latitude of 17° north.

We had now been out a full month, and had taken nothing of value ; so that our crew began to murmur greatly, and begged of the captain to cruise on the

Spanish Main ; he objected that our provisions would soon run short. A general discontent prevailed among the people. I began to wish heartily that I had never come among them ; and as we had some of the true descendants of the old buccaneers amongst us, did not know what they might intend. At length they privately drew up a round robin ; the major part of the crew signed it ; but I declined putting my hand to the paper. The officers, finding this, were obliged to comply, and away we shaped our course for the Main shore.

A few days after this, the wind came to blow fresh at north, and increased so that we were forced often to lie-to ; at length it became more moderate. We were now in the latitude of 15 ; and in the night, one of our hands cried out, ‘ Breakers a-head ! ’ We tacked immediately, but had only time enough, and that was all. As the wind died away, we let go our anchor in eight fathoms, and thus waited for day. When

the morning came (a morning I never longed more for in my life), we found the vessel surrounded with rocks and shoals. Not above two of our hands knew where we were, and they were not steady in the same opinion. At last they agreed it to be those dangerous shoals called Quita Swenns, or Prevent Sleep. My mind became extremely anxious: I considered the very forlorn state in which we were, with a small vessel full of people, and no more than one poor canoe to help us in case of extremity. One of our quondam pilots advised to stand away for Santa Catarina, where we arrived two days after, took on shore water-casks, and boot-topped the vessel. Here our noisy companions took it into their heads, that they should have no luck till they finished all the remainder of the rum on board. After the water was secured the game began; and matters were carried to such a height, that it became one round of drinking, fighting, and uproar; and, but that

we had a good commission on board, it had more the appearance of a piratical expedition, than a lawful cruize against the enemies of our country. The next day we stood away to the southward, and on the morning after a sail hove in sight. We chaced her the whole day long, gaining but little upon her. On the morrow we saw her right on the lee-bow ; we had the wind then northerly. The chace was now renewed, and we seemed to come up with her hand over hand, when she altered her course right before it, and left us like the wind. About sun-set we saw land, and took it for the Main, so kept under an easy sail all that night. On the morrow we found she had given us the slip, and that we had neared the shore greatly by a current. We stood in for a few hours, and then ran along, ranging the shore, at the distance of about four leagues, until the evening, when we fell in with the soundings in thirty fathoms ; shortly after it shoaled to sixteen, with

patches of rocks. Here we hove-to, and all hands fell to fishing, with good success. While we were all busy at this sport, a tortoise swam alongside; they called for the grainge, and three of us jumped into the canoe, then alongside, and pushed after it, but without success. As it was now almost dark when we came back, they veered her astern, and I remained in her, being very much in liquor, as that day we had finished the last drop of rum on board.

CHAP. III.

How long I slept I know not, the great motion of the boat awakened me, and as I was rubbing my eyes, to my great astonishment, I missed the schooner. The consternation this threw me into, sobered me at once; what to do, or how to act, I was for the moment incapable of judging. Horrible was now my condition, as the wind freshened up more and more. At last I saw a flash and heard a gun go off, but it was a great way out, and for me to pretend to gain the vessel again, was utterly impossible, I therefore gave up the thought. I drove, and continued to bale as I drove,

in a sort of despair, till the dawn of the day.

I was now close in shore, and put into a small beach, where I ran the canoe on shore, jumped out and hauled her up; I could just discern the privateer in the offing, a great way out. While I was thus standing and eagerly gazing about, I saw a large brig stretching out, as in quest of our vessel; she was near enough for me to see she was a cruiser. I now walked about in a state of distraction I know not how to describe, and sometimes sat on the gunwale of the canoe. It is impossible to give a just idea of the state of my mind; I remained thus absorbed as it were, till I lost sight of both vessels; I now began to look round me, and could see nothing but a wild country of palmetto trees and shrubs, but whether inhabited or not by human beings, I was perfectly ignorant.

As I sat musing what was next to be done, having no more than a sailor's frock

over my shirt, a pair of petticoat trowsers, my knife in one pocket, and my fishing tackle, with a few hooks in the other, and my bonnet on my head, (these, with the canoe, paddles, and grainge, were all my store), the first thing I determined upon, in this my state of desolation, was to procure a large stone for a killick to my boat; this made me naturally cast an eye on the painter, which I found had slipped the belaying.

At the end of the bay where I had landed, ran out a reef of rocks. While I was gazing every where around me, to my great surprise, I discovered a man standing on the shore; I saw that he was naked and held a kind of oar in his hand; I concluded it was a savage, and he was not more than two hundred yards from me. I directly laid myself flat on the rocks, that I might observe his motions without discovering myself. I soon perceived that he was walking towards me; my breath grew

short, my heart beat in my breast so violently, that I could scarcely contain myself. I was at once to determine whether to speak to him or not. My situation was become truly dreadful. The prospect I had before me, was either to starve with hunger, or to deliver myself into the hands of merciless savages, who would probably soon put an end to all my troubles and my life together. I looked up to heaven, resolved to rely upon Providence, and determined to show myself, as he was now within sixty yards of me. I therefore got up, and stepped down upon the beach. When he first saw me, he halted ; I then hailed him, and made signs for him to come on ; the first salutation was, he clapped his hands over his eyes leaning forward, then spread them abroad ; I did the same. Upon this he stepped up to me, and held out his hand ; I received it in mine ; he looked me full in the face, and said ‘ Christinos ;’ I answered, ‘ si senor.’ He then stooped down and made a

cross with his finger in the sand, laid his hand on my shoulder, and motioned me to follow him. I did so, and we walked along the shore; he talked to me the whole time, but I could not understand a word. At last we came to a small inlet; here was his canoe, and in it a woman quite naked, and a little boy about three years old with her, in the same state; she seemed to be greatly alarmed at the sight of me. The man, who appeared to be about fifty years of age, used all means to pacify her fears. Seeing this, I went to the side of the canoe, and patted the child on the head; this, I found, pleased the man much; he gave me a piece of half roasted turtle out of his canoe, which I devoured greedily, not having tasted a morsel since I went adrift. The man now gave a sort of cry, as to a person at a distance; I looked and saw a boy run among the high grass. The Indian gave me a sign to stay by the canoe, and away he went after him.

Upon this the woman set up her pipes and began to bawl to some purpose, the child bearing his part. The Indian was obliged to return, and he took me along with him. We went in among the grass, and with some difficulty brought out the other boy; the poor lad was so terrified, that I presume he had never seen a white man before. When we came back, the woman began her noise again. I observed they had several articles, such as turtles, eggs, guanos, and the like, in the boat, which was not above two feet wide, although she was above sixteen feet long; after this the man and boy got into her, and I naturally supposed they would give me a seat with them. The woman still kept on her clamour, and the man handed me out a large calabash by a string, and pointing to a place, said, "agua, agua." Understanding that he meant water, I ran off to fetch it, but after searching for some time could find none. What was my sur-

prise on preparing to return to the boat, when I saw the Indians paddling off as fast as they could, and they were then above fifty yards from the shore. I stood like one thunderstruck, fixed to the spot. At length I hailed, but to no purpose; I saw them get round a point of rocks, and felt myself as one left alone in the world.

The sun was now set, and I had to walk back to my canoe. As I was returning, it came into my head, that my late new friend had certainly handed me out the calabash as a stratagem, that, by thus employing me, he might have time to escape; judging, that by the woman's behaviour she would not consent to my going with them, from some prejudice against me, or fear of my doing them an injury. At length I got back to the canoe, and seated myself on the stern sheets; I then hauled up the boat as high as I could; I pulled off my frock, and, as I lay at my length in her, covered my breast with it, to keep off

the dew, which falls heavy in these parts. I now began to think it possible that I might again see the schooner the next day ; but, alas ! these eyes never beheld the Recovery more.

How soon I fell asleep I know not, nor did I find myself awake till the sun was high. I looked wistfully towards the offing, but no schooner was to be seen. I was forced to cut a bit of lead off my poor sinker, to chew, as I was almost choaking with thirst. After this, in a kind of stupor, I walked along the shore to hunt for food. I found plenty of welks (a shell fish) these I broke against the rock-stones ; took them to my boat, where I sat down and ate four of them raw as they were, with the tears of true sorrow trickling down my cheeks ; and now had my cap been full of dollars, they should all have gone for one stick of fire.

The next thing was to go in search of water ; I wandered about for more than an

hour, and returned without finding any. In this ramble I conjectured that I was on an island, by its position, or at least a long point of land. I took another excursion, which carried me to a point terminating with rocks and a small reef. On my return I took out my paddle and went toward the point; and finding a clear place of sand, fell to digging. This work cost me an hour's hard labour, but still no success. I then threw down my paddle, and afterwards myself flat on my face, not caring whether I lived or died. After a time I got up, thinking to return, launch my boat, and put along shore the other way; but as I stooped to take up my paddle, to my unspeakable joy water had sprung up in my well. I instantly stooped down and tasted it with my hand; it was brackish, but tolerable. This was indeed a great relief. I fell on my knees and returned thanks. Having drank my fill I returned to the canoe, never ceasing to

express my gratitude to that kind Providence, who had in so short a time provided me with meat and drink, when I had so lately despaired of finding either.

I now became easier in my mind, having no longer the dread of absolutely starving. I went back, brought my calabash full of water, placed it in my boat, and then took a walk along shore westward. In this excursion I found a conch; and with a stone, returned, sat down on the bow of my boat, and worked round the crown of the shell until I drew out the fish, and as it is of a sweet taste, found it very pleasing to my palate. In the evening I prepared to compose myself to rest, and slept soundly the whole night. Next morning by day light I walked along the shore, as far as the little creek where the Indians forsook me. Here I finished the remains of my conch, and then went on through the creek about two miles farther; here I could plainly see the extent of my

island. I mounted on an old dead tree, to look out, and, to my great sorrow, found it to be not above half a mile over; this alarmed me much, as I considered it to be a very poor place of residence for me. As I was thus exploring round, I saw at about the distance of five miles a more promising shore, of a much larger island, or perhaps the Main itself. I hurried down, and made back for my boat as fast as I could, being determined, if the weather proved moderate, the next day to take my leave of this place. The rest of the day I spent in preparing for my departure.

I never failed to keep a sharp look out after the schooner, as I was far from giving her up entirely; but finding she did not appear again, I supposed the brig I had seen stretch out for her had either taken her or sunk her; if not so, perhaps they had shaped their course some other way, not caring to risk the seeking for me or the boat again. At other times I ima-

gined, they had returned to those Maroon islands again, and had either bilged on them, or foundered at sea. Thus, agitated betwixt hope and despair, I passed my lonely hours; I could not sleep for the great hurry of my mind. About midnight, it rained so hard and lasted so long, that I was drenched with water in the canoe; at last it began to hold up, and the day came on as still as a clock. I then got out, took my frock and wrung it well, and threw it on the grass to dry; I did the same by my shirt and trowsers, and began to bale out my boat. I then took my calabash to drink, and found the rain had so freshened it, that it quite raised my spirits. After this I clapped on board my killick, got my boat afloat, and replaced my calabash; I then took a walk along shore, gathered about twenty welks, and threw them into her. By this time my shirt and trowsers were tolerably dry; I put them on, and prepared for departure.

I paddled along shore for some time, passed the place where my well was, then ventured out to double the reef of rocks; which having done, I stood away north on new discoveries. The deepest water I found to be about three fathom, and often not one. After I had been on my voyage for about three quarters of an hour, I observed, on a small key, some odd white spots; thither I turned, and, as I drew nigh, an incredible number of birds of many kinds rose like a cloud about me, and their noise made me almost deaf. Here I landed, and found the white spots I had seen to be king conches. These shells are so large, some of them will contain three quarts of water. I put five of them into my boat, and then began to gather the eggs that lay all about me. While I was at this work, the pelicans would brush by my head so close, as almost to knock off my bonnet.

I now put off for my new shore, and in about an hour got close in under the land;

here I found it bluff to, then a beach, the land overgrown with trees. As I paddled along, I espied a kind of creek, about a pistol shot over; in I put, and found the water to shoal to about four feet. I was so delighted with these new scenes, that fear never once entered into my head. I found the land on both sides about the height of a boat's mast; but as I advanced in farther, I discovered it to be a lagoon, or lake. Here the mangrove trees hung over my head laden with oysters, like traces of onions. It abounded with fish of divers kinds, in great abundance; the spoon-bills, galdings, and cranes, sat on the trees, without taking much notice of me, as being seldom used to the sight of men. At length I came to an opening; fortune having directed me to the left, this brought me to another branch, where it opened wide all at once. Here I found a small sandy shore; I threw out my killick and jumped on the land.

It was now about meridian, as I judged

by the sun. I walked up the bank and found the soil bare, with rocks for about one hundred yards round ; and as I stood looking about, I saw a kind of gap at some distance, among the trees ; thither I walked, and, when I came to examine the place, I found to my surprise another branch, and that I was got on a small precipice, with a pretty sandy beach beneath me. I then looked out for some way to get below ; and as I was doing this, I saw plainly over the trees, the island I had left in the morning. At last I got down on the sands below ; here I found a cavern running into the rock. I examined the place, and thought it to be about fifteen feet deep ; and looking round, the mouth appeared to be about ten feet in height, and eighteen feet wide, with a gravel bottom. Here I seated myself, and found a piece of wood cut in the form of a mask ; this made me believe, that I was not the first human being who had visited this place.

I now returned to my boat, resolved to find out a way by water to this place, if possible. When I came with the canoe to the point of the opening, I cut a branch of the mangrove, and hung it up perpendicular, in order to know the place again. I then took to the other arm of the lagoon, and, in a short time after, found that it brought me round to the cave, and there I resolved to take up my abode for the present. I carried on shore all my little matters. My furniture consisted of my lines, three spare hooks, the calabash, and the five shells. After this was done, I seated myself on the ground, and began to regale myself on my raw welks. I finished my meal with a plentiful draught of water, then lay myself down and fell fast asleep.

As near as I can judge, it was about five o'clock when I awoke. The dread of my wants in future, now took full possession of my mind. I got, however, into my canoe,

and went round to the place where my new signal branch hung, from thence paddled out to the mouth of the creek; after this I ran her ashore, threw out my killick, and went along the beach in search of food, but found only three welks; this increased my melancholy reflections. As I was moving on, with my eyes bent on the ground, my ears were suddenly struck with a soft murmur as of water. I directly followed it; when going up to a small opening between the trees, to my unspeakable joy, I beheld a beautiful little linn of water, falling over a shelving rock; this was indeed a most valuable property to me. I ran back to my boat, paddled away as fast as I could for my calabash, and returned with that, and two of my largest shells; these I filled, and then choaked them up with stones, and returned to my cave with them, intending to go no more out till the next morning.

At the close of night, the mosquitoes

and sand flies began to annoy me much, which deprived me of many hours sleep; but I had no remedy but patience. I crawled into the back part of the cave, and covered my face and hands with my frock, and by that means rested tolerably till the morning. The first thing I then did, was to get a few panama shells, as they are called, and with them I then concluded to keep my reckoning, by putting them into one of the conch shells, which lay in the back part of the cave. I now went in search of conch bait, with a view of fishing, then returned into the lagoon, and there came to. I saw fish in great plenty, but so great was my fear of losing a hook, that if any fish larger than ordinary drew near the bait, I instantly drew up my line. I was lucky enough to catch seven or eight grunts, and with them went to the cave, and ate part of them raw; this was my constant practice. At length I found my strength diminish daily, owing, as I sup-

posed, to my diet. I grew weak and lost my flesh ; and I considered that if I went on thus much longer, my time would be but short in this land of desolation. The day was thus embittered by dismal reflections, and the night often passed without sleep. I had no other prospect before me but death, and looked upon this cavern as the repository of my mortal remains.

After I had been here about a month, I began to give the schooner quite over, as lost to me for ever ; nor had I seen one thing since the Indian canoe in the form of a vessel. One evening the clouds began to gather very thick, and it came on to rain very hard, with terrible thunder and lightning. I was just at that time returned to the cave with a few conches. The storm lasted above two hours, and I had great reason to be thankful, that I had a dry house over my head.

Early the next day, as I was walking by the sea shore, to my great surprise, I saw

a smoke suddenly rising from the bushes at no great distance from me. I at once concluded there must be Indians near the spot. How to act I could not tell ; but considering that it was impossible for me to escape them long, and as the man I had met already had treated me kindly and well, I went resolutely up the beach, and peeped among the trees. But how can I express the joy which took possession of my soul, when I discovered it to proceed from an old tree on fire, by the accident, as I presumed, of the lightning. I ran off immediately to my boat, and placed a quantity of sand a-midships. I then gathered a parcel of drift wood, and filled the bow of the canoe, and away I flew to get some of that precious element, laid it on the sand, and placed a few sticks over it. The joy I felt on this most happy occasion, almost turned my brain. With an air of satisfaction, I seated myself in the canoe, and paddled off with my prize to my cave. I was so much

elated with this accident, that in the moment of exultation, I could not believe that I now wanted for any thing.

N. B. I did not fail to return thanks to that compassionate God, who had thus, in his goodness, provided me with one of the greatest comforts of human life, to cheer and enliven the solitude that surrounded me.

The moment I reached the shore, I transported my fire under a shelving projection of the rocks, to preserve it from the rain, and having now a blazing hearth, I directly fell to cooking some fish. It was a full month since I had tasted any thing but raw food ; so grateful was this to my palate, that I cleared all I had caught. After I had finished my meal, I began to consider in what manner I should keep my fire burning. I knew the poppanack wood would keep fire to the last bit ; therefore, wherever I found any, I never failed to bring it home, and by this means preserv-

ed this precious element I had often tried to procure it by rubbing two sticks together, but without success. Thus uniformly did I pass my time for seven weeks, keeping a regular account by my shells. I then took a fancy to explore the coast for some short distance, by way of recreation.

As I was wandering along the strand, in the course of my excursion, I discovered something at a distance, which I could not immediately make out, but on coming nearer, I found, to my great surprise, that it was a small square chest, apparently of Spanish make; on turning it over, it appeared to be still locked, and not very heavy; at a short distance lay a wooden bowl. I clapped the chest on my shoulder, and taking the bowl in my hand, returned to my boat, put them both in, and made my way up the lagoon. I soon landed my little freight, and then ran to my fire, found it in good order, and after trimming

it, fell to examine the contents of my prize. I found it contain two blue striped shirts, one red and white striped ditto, one pair of long striped trowsers, three pair of canvas ditto, four red silk handkerchiefs, a pair of shoes, with silver buckles in them, two fishing lines, a small bag of hooks and sail needles, a roll of tobacco, a small spying glass in a wooden case, two clasp knives, and a ball of twine; these things I discovered by their make were not English.

The tobacco was good for nothing; the shoes I was fearful of using, lest they should bring my feet tender again, having gone so long without them. How these things came there, without my being able to discover any part of the wreck, I could not at that time judge. I stowed them away very carefully in my cave, renewed my fire, and then turned in for the night.

The next day I went in search of bait, and on my return prepared to go a fishing.

I was always successful, and never failed to catch a quantity of different kinds ; my new mode of cookery made them doubly palatable ; my strength began to increase, and in a short time my health was perfectly restored.

Some time after this, as I rambled along the shore, I found a small yard, a boat's rudder, and an empty cask ; these proved to me, that the chest had belonged to some small sloop or schooner, wrecked on that shore some time past. While I thus explored the beach, I observed here and there the track of tortoises ; I followed a very recent one up the sand, and coming to where it had been at work, fell on my knees, and began to turn up the sand. I soon found it was a false place. They are apt, as I have been informed, to practise this deception, either to prevent farther search, or not being pleased with the spot. I then took to another track, and found myself right. After digging a short time, I was sur-

prised to see a parcel of young ones, about the size of half a crown, waddling over my fingers; they were all of perfect turtle shape. I left them to shift for themselves, and proceeded to another place. Here I got about 75 eggs in good condition, went back to my boat, laid them in at two trips with my calabash, and returned home.

N. B. I always took home with me the drift wood which lay in my way, and as much of the small brush as I could carry.

Thus I lived till the wet season came on, solitary and alone, it is true, but not altogether without comforts. I had suffered much, but had great reason to be thankful to Providence for the protection it had afforded, and the unlooked for benefits it had bestowed upon me. I accustomed myself to very thin clothing, that my small stock might last the longer; I often went with nothing but trowsers; but now I was obliged to wear something more, as

it was at times rather cold. My fire was made within my cave, lest the continual rains should deprive me of that blessing, which would have reduced me to a sad state of desperation.

I continued daily to lay up dry wood, as it rained more or less for above a month, according to my reckoning. In all this time I went no farther from home than to fetch palmetto leaves to make my bed; now and then a fishing in the lagoon, and to replenish my stock of water.

The weather now began to clear up again, and nature appeared in a short time dressed in a new livery. I then resolved to take a small trip in my boat. Having made every thing ready, and leaving a good fire, I put out of the lagoon in the morning, and stood over for the small bird key, where I found such plenty of conches and welks, that after I had thrown above a hundred in my boat, I went on shore and got a few eggs, with three young birds,

and then put off on my return. A very large shark followed me. As he swam with part of his tail and cobbler's knife above water, I judged him to measure about 14 feet in length ; he continued with me for some time, but on throwing over a conch, he left me, and went down after it.

On my arrival at the cave, I began to roast a conch ; in doing it I observed a bit of spongy stuff, which grew on a part of my fuel, to kindle and burn very quick. I directly broke it off, put it out, then touched it at the fire, and found that it would completely answer the purpose of tinder. As there was plenty of a bastard kind of white flint pebbles along the shore, I concluded that these with my knife would set me up. I was not easy till I tried the experiment, and found it to answer my purpose very well, though the flint was not of the dark kind we have in Europe. I procured a quantity of the punck from the dead stumps of trees ; prepared a shell for a

tinder-box, and was never without it, wherever I went, either on foot or in my canoe.

By my account, it now appeared that I had been on this shore about nine months. During the course of this solitary life, tears would often burst from me as I walked along; and this was some relief to that perpetual anxiety and perturbation of mind, which agitated my whole frame, and made me often wish myself dead. In fact I longed for the ‘flesh pots of Egypt.’ My regrets arose from being separated from a set of companions with whose habits and manners, however vicious, I was accustomed. I considered, if they were fortunate, the prize money they would divide amongst them, how much would have fallen to my share to have squandered away in folly and dissipation. Alas! I did not consider that a good God was so carefully watching over me for my benefit; that the very evils I complained of were

essential to my happiness; that being thus separated, or rather selected from my vicious companions, was rescuing me from infamy and ruin, and the placing me in a state of comparative innocence, where my reflections might purify my mind, was bringing me nearer to himself. I was young, vain, and foolish, and thought not of these things as I ought to have done.

But to proceed.—One morning I resolved to go along shore to the eastward. Here I found the land fall low, with many palmetto trees growing in a sandy soil. At last I came to a small kind of inlet; here I went on shore, and after walking about twenty yards up a sand bank, I found a fine salina, or salt pond; and, reader, be not astonished, I discovered a large company of soldiers drawn up in battle array, in their regimentals; enough to terrify a stouter man than I was, had I not been well acquainted with their peaceable dis-

position, they being nothing more than a large flock of flamingos. I had now an opportunity of observing the way these birds breed. They raise up a pyramid of sand in the pond, in the top of it they make a pit, over this they sit to lay and hatch their young, with their long legs hanging down on each side.

N. B. Although these birds are as red as scarlet when old, yet their young are for a time of an ash colour, growing redder by age; they are of a very stupid nature, and will not move for the noise of a gun; so that if a person can keep concealed, he may load and fire often, before they will take flight.

Not long after this, I counted over my shells, and found the number to be three hundred and fifteen. From that time, till I had completed my whole year, I remained in solitude, seeing nothing particularly to disturb my peace or to excite my hope.

CHAP. IV.

SECOND YEAR OF MY LONELY CONDITION.

ABOUT a month after I had begun my second year, I had a very odd adventure. One evening as I was sitting on the shore, about two miles distant from my cave, I suddenly heard a great snort, which appeared to come from among the bushes. I jumped up and ran down to the boat as fast as my legs could carry me. After my first alarm was a little over, I began to reflect within myself what this could possibly be ; and in this mood I paddled along shore towards home, keeping a proper distance from land, for fear of a se-

cond alarm, or a surprise of any kind. Just as I passed a short bay, to my great astonishment, I thought I beheld a troop of Indians, marching along shore, right abreast of me. I was indeed greatly terrified. The first thing I did was to lie along in the canoe, lest they should discover me, and thus to observe their motions; but I was soon happily undeceived, finding them to be nothing more than a small herd of about twenty deer. As I lay with my head raised up a little, my foot happened to tumble a shell; this caused the foremost to halt, and stare directly at the canoe; he gave two strong snorts, and immediately they all scampered up the beach, into the woods. All my fears now vanished, and I put away for home as fast as I could.

Nothing but the deer ran in my head for several days together. As I had neither gun nor ammunition, I could not expect to succeed as a hunter, therefore gave

over all thought of a venison repast for that time.

N. B. There were here two sorts of lizards, with which I was at times greatly amused. One of these frequented the rocks above high water mark, and, contrary to all others I have seen, had their tails in a curl on their backs. They were of a yellow brown, beautifully mottled with dark spots, and carried their heads quite erect, like little dogs; and they were seldom above five inches in length. Being acquainted with their manners, many times have I seated myself to watch them. First, three or four of them would come round me, look me in the face, and, if I began to whistle, would first turn their heads to one side, and then to the other, and listen very attentively; yet if I offered to stir, they were so alert as to be off in a moment. I could never, by any contrivance, catch one of them alive. The other sort is what they call in Jamaica the

woodslave; they are larger than the former, and I remember the first I saw of them surprised me very much. It was on the limb of a low tree, and of a verdigrise green; but, during the time I had my eyes on it, it began to change its colour, turning to a fine gold yellow, and from that gradually to a dead leaf colour, with brown stripes down the side from head to tail; from this it changed to deep brown, and lastly to a profound black. Some of these I caught now and then, by means of a small noose round the neck; and tying them afterwards round the loins with a bit of twine, kept them about my place for a week or more at a time. I could never discover that they took any food, except they occasionally caught a fly.

Thus I went on for several months; and in this time I made me a table and a stool, which I performed as follows. I cut twigs and wattled them, after the manner I had seen the country people do at home, then

fixed them on four uprights. I cannot boast they were quite so strong as I wished ; for I never ventured to cut any thing very large with my knives, fearing to break one of them ; and it was of the utmost consequence, in my situation, to preserve them unbroken.

I am now about to mention a singular circumstance, which, as it was the means of procuring me a companion, and was moreover attended with some drollery, I think worth reciting. Having been out one day to catch land-crabs, I tied three of them together, and left them on the beach, while I was gathering a few of those shells which our silversmiths make into snuff-boxes ; thinking, that if I should ever get home again, they might turn to some account. As I was busy at this amusement, I heard a noise over my head ; and, looking up, saw a fish hawk bearing off my bunch of crabs ; but it happened unfortunately for him, for he could not rise with them,

and came down on the beach, crabs and all.

Though I must confess I was not in a very merry mood, yet the thing drew a smile from me, and of a truth it was the first since my landing here. When I came up to him, I found that two of those amphibious gentlemen had fastened on his leg. He soon commenced hostilities with me, fighting with his wings and beak ; but to put an end to the contest, I took an opportunity and seized him by the neck, well knowing that my other myrmidons would not quit their hold. Thus I bore the whole bunch to my boat, and there first bound up his beak, then his leg, and brought safe home the whole body of disputants.

The first thing I did was to disengage them, by putting fire to the crabs, which soon set the hawk at liberty. I cut one of my new comrade's wings, and tied a small log to one of his legs ; then cut the string

from his beak to enlarge him. During the whole of this business, I must confess he did his best to defeat my purpose. This bird was of the most beautiful plumage, of a mixture of white, yellow, brown, and black; his legs and bill were yellow, and his talons black. He was about the size of our English kite, and his cry very much like that bird's.

I soon found my fear of his running away quite needless; his legs being short, he could make but little progress on the ground. These birds always devour their prey on the branches of old dead trees, from whence they watch the fish with a keen eye. The crabs had hurt his legs a little, so that he was lame, which made his confinement less irksome to him. I now offered him some broiled fish, which he disdainfully refused, nor would he taste a bit for two whole days; but, on the third, I observed, when I returned from fishing, that his stomach began to crave; the sight

of the fresh fish increased his appetite, which I judged by his crying. I threw him some garbage; he eyed it for a while, and then fell on greedily, and devoured the whole in a short space. This so pleased me, that my mouth opened incontinently, and I cried out to him, "Much good may it do you, Mr Yellow-bill." In fact, they were the only words I had uttered loudly, from the time the Indians left me to that hour.

In the course of a month we became quite intimate; so much so, that when I came home, he would salute me very kindly—a compliment I was always ready to return, as I was proud of having some one to speak to. He began now to be rather too free, and would haul away my fish, without leave or licence. At length this poor fowl became so docile, that I could do any thing with him. In an evening, as it grew dark, he would come in to roost himself; so that I began to pity him, and

think his log unnecessary, and took it off. He knew his name, and would come when called Yellow-bill. Whenever I seated myself, he would come and place himself by me, and remain picking his feathers the whole time; this induced me to amuse myself often with talking to him.

One day as I was fishing, it came into my head to make a small voyage of discovery; and on my return home I began to put every thing in order, that I might carry it into execution without inconvenience, and particularly provided food for my bird. Accordingly, the next day, I got some roasted fish and water into my boat, lest I might not find any soon; I likewise put up my tinder tackling, and proceeded towards the salina; there I left the canoe, and marched over a barren soil, producing nothing but palmettos, and prickly pears; then I walked away for a kind of grove at about a mile's distance. On my arrival, I found the shore grew rocky, and

inclined more to the left, where it ended in a reef. Over these rocks I took my way, and saw before me a great bay of sand, the country full of large woods. Shortly after I came to a kind of inlet, and here I espied a large guano. This pleased me greatly, as I now hoped to find their haunts, which would give an agreeable variety to my diet, the flesh being very tender and good.

I went up the side of the creek for near a mile, saw thousands of fish in it, with the trees hanging over the water in many places, which rendered it difficult for me to pass on that way; therefore I took more into the woods, keeping the creek still in view. Here I saw many lime trees full of fruit; these were most pleasing objects to my sight. I plucked one of them, and cut it; although the acid is extremely sharp, the taste was most grateful to me, and very refreshing.

Now I found the creek to change its course; and I began to fear I might lose myself, as I could no longer see the coast. I therefore concluded to seat myself, and take a short repast. Not far from this, on a rising ground, I sat down, and saw at its foot a small ripple of fresh water, with multitudes of land-crabs about it. Here I began my meal, which was enlivened by the various notes of innumerable birds, of beautiful and diversified plumage. The concert was at once soothing and delightful to my ears.

In this place I observed a singular kind of bird, called the Old Man, from its having the feathers of its crop of such a length, that when it perches it resembles the grey beard of an ancient person. I began now to consider with myself whether I should return or proceed; curiosity at length got the better, and I went up a small height, where it became very level, and full of brush, ex-

cept here and there a bare place. I discovered, at a small distance from me, several manchiniel trees, whose fruit is deadly poison to man; the very juice of its leaves will raise terrible blisters, so as to deprive a person of his sight. From beneath those trees, to my no small amusement, I beheld armies of land-crabs, marching off, on my appearance, with each an apple in his claw, and many of them had two, which made them droll figures; the more so, as they carried them upright. After this I walked on about one hundred yards, keeping a good observation of the sun. Here I was struck with a very remarkable appearance. On a plain place stood a huge rock-stone, almost upright, about the magnitude of a small church tower, and, as I judged, near forty feet in height, and almost square. When I came up to it, I found many scratches on it, made by some instrument or other, in the form of ovals, triangles, with rude imitations of heads,

and the like. These I judged to be the works of Indians; however, as I walked round it, I found many letters, cut as with knives, which I supposed to have been done by Spaniards or pirates. Some few of them I took down for my own curiosity, and give them a place here, viz. M+A. P+V JL. E+S. L+O. V+M. R::+C &c. &c. &c. I also found four dates, in different places, added to names, as thus—I+E 1589; Bal. S^s. 1605; A+A 1582, and W^m. R. 1673. In another place was to be seen the following characters. +To. ✕. ⊗ cc. AA.

N. B. These letters having crosses between them, I attributed to the Spaniards; the others I supposed to be the marks of buccaneers or pirates, who had rambled over these parts in former times. I now began to think of returning home, and arrived at my small cove, where the boat lay, towards the evening, then put away along shore, and reached home just in

the dusk, well pleased with my cruise. I found all safe as I left it, and was kindly received by my new comrade, who expressed great joy, raising his large wings, stretching forth his neck, making a soft and murmuring noise, and rubbing his head and beak against my bare legs.

The following night I had a very troublesome dream, occasioned, without doubt, by my excursion the day before. I thought I was sitting by the before-mentioned huge stone, when all at once, as from behind me, I heard divers voices ; and casting my eyes back, I beheld several men advancing towards me. The uncouth garb they were dressed in, made me start from my place ; they came on and hailed me thus, “ Buenos dia, signior.” They had whiskers, and wore armour. An old man asked me if I had seen any thing of Manuel Guiterez that way ; I answered, that I had not seen any mortal man since my first landing on this shore, except three or four Indians. They asked

how long I had been there, and by what means I first arrived; to all which I answered in good Spanish, as I then thought; upon which they all seized me, and said, I was the King of Spain's prisoner, and must go with them to work in the mines as a slave. This, I suppose, gave my whole frame such a shock, that I awoke, hollaing in a most fearful way. My poor hawk was so frightened, that he flew into the water, and would most certainly have been drowned, had not the sight of its distress brought me to my senses again. I ran to its relief, and then seated myself before the cave. While poor Yellow-bill was endeavouring to replace his plumage, I fell into a train of melancholy reflections, the consequences of my dream. I believed that the vision might one day be verified, and perhaps the time was not far distant. I had certainly grounds for this fear, as I knew it to be the practice of the Spaniards in this part of the world, and that many an Englishman had

been thus served ; and many a maid, wife, and mother, had lamented the death of a sweetheart, husband, or son, when perhaps they were, at the same time, in a much worse condition. My mind was so agitated with these thoughts, that it brought on a fever, which lasted three days. I then began to recover myself, and was resolved to consider it as a mere idle dream ; at the same time I determined to submit myself entirely to the will of God, and prayed for strength and fortitude to bear up against the evils incident to my forlorn situation, and to act, under all circumstances, as the duties of that situation should require.

Soon after this I went to my reckoning, and found, by the number of my shells, that I had been here above one year and four months. I never omitted casting in a shell ever morning, immediately after I turned out, having provided a sufficient quantity for that purpose. I now came to the resolution of making a voyage west-

ward, having nothing to hinder me; my whole time being spent in a round of fishing, eating, drinking, and sleeping. I laid by a sufficient store of provision for Yellow-bill, and put off one fine morning, expecting to return the next day. I kept along shore for the space of two hours, and then began to explore new scenes, the land running sometimes high, sometimes low, indented with fine sandy bays. At length I opened a fine lagoon; I put into it, and proceeded for a good distance, the whole prospect about me being pleasant and inviting. As I turned round a low rocky point, I was suddenly struck with the sight of several human skulls, as I took them to be; they were white as snow. I put to shore, and went up to them, and found my conjectures right. I saw likewise that, in times long past, fires had been made there, as I found remains of ashes, and the ends of burnt sticks. This satisfied me that the place had been frequented, and, as I

supposed, by a wretched race of cannibals. I took up two or three of the skulls, and put them in the canoe, and determined to get out of that place as soon as possible. I therefore put along shore, and spent much time in viewing places till the night came. I then landed. Not long after this, the clouds began to gather thick all around; the rain came on, with thunder and lightning. I hauled up my boat high and dry, and endeavoured to get under shelter myself; but the flashes were so frequent, and the thunder so terrible, that I thought one of the claps had separated the portion of the globe where I was stationed. I was so stunned by it, that I stood motionless for some time; and as soon as I could well recover myself, I ran down, and threw the skulls upon the beach, through a foolish and idle superstition that they were somehow connected with the storm which had happened. After this I walked about the shore till the day began to peep, when the

clouds were dispersed, and the sun arose fair and clear. I had not a dry thread about me. My fire, tackling, and food, were all afloat in the boat. I began to spread out my clothes, and to bale my canoe. This occupied me till the sun was about two hours high. Curiosity tempted me to take up one of the skulls; and as I turned it round in my hand, I observed that it had no marks where the teeth should be. I began to examine another, and found the same defect. I concluded now, they could not be human, but that they were the skulls of loggerhead tortoises. Thus convinced, I got into my boat, and paddled away homewards, where I arrived safe; but should have been miserably at a loss for fire, had I not been master of spare tinder in the cave, as all the other fire was quite extinguished.

After this frolic, I staid a long time at or near home, and employed my thoughts solely to make my life as easy as I possibly could.

To confess the truth, till this time I had not felt that true contrition which my condition should have disposed me to a long time before. I now began to correct all my wandering thoughts, to check my wanton and wilful cravings for the onions and garlick of my native shore, and to thank a merciful God for the great deliverances I had experienced, and the comforts and conveniences that he had condescended to provide me with, even in this desolate situation. Reasoning thus with my own heart, I became quite resigned and easy.

Soon after this, it came into my head to penetrate into the wood that was near my habitation; but how to accomplish this was the business. I had neither axe nor any other cutting instrument to clear away impediments; and to venture my knives would be too hazardous an experiment, and cutting against my own interest. However, at all events, I was resolved to make the effort; but I proceeded with the ut-

most caution, and therefore looked out for the most convenient place to begin my incursion. I chose one about half a mile west of my dwelling, and a few days after made a beginning. In the first place I cut a large pole, which took up some time, as it was both hard and heavy; with this, when I had cut a way with my knife, I beat down the bushes, so as to get about twenty yards into the wood. Here I met with a large yellow snake, and killed him with my pole; it measured full six feet in length, and ten inches round. This made me somewhat timid, and I began to find that I had undertaken a very arduous task, and was doubtful whether it might answer any good purpose. I had half a mind to give it up, when a sudden thought struck me, that I might succeed more effectually by using fire. Accordingly, waiting a favourable wind that would drive it from my dwelling, I took a load of dry bark, and set fire to it;

it increased in a most rapid manner: I simply thought that it would only burn the low bushes, but, to my great surprise, in the space of an hour the blaze was tremendous, and the largest trees were on fire. I retired down to the shore, and began seriously to repent of what I had done. The fire became truly dreadful, and the continual crackling was like thunder in my ears. Thus it burnt for the whole day ; but when night came on it was awful indeed.

I could not close my eyes in sleep ; I was haunted with the idea that the wind might shift, which would bring it directly to my cave. However, towards the morning, it became a dead calm ; but the fire continued to burn more or less for seven or eight days. At last a glut of rain came on, and subdued the flames ; nevertheless, volumes of smoke continued to ascend for above a week longer.

When I judged the earth might be tolerably cool, I began to take a survey of the

desolation I had made, and to walk over this desert of ashes. The scene that presented itself was indeed extraordinary. Here and there stood the trunk and half-burnt limbs of a cedar or cotton tree, with a variety of others of which I was ignorant. I came at last to the remains of a large plantain tree, which gave me much vexation, as the creoles use the fruit as a substitute for bread. The only consolation I drew from my misfortune, was the knowledge that the true plantain was to be met with in the neighbourhood.

I now began to turn my mind to the making of fishing lines, which I had learnt from an old negro on board the schooner, in the following manner; to soak the leaves of the corritoo, or the alloe, and then to work it into fibres. This I found answer my purpose well, so that I had no longer any dread of wanting this article. I thus passed my days in continual employment of some kind or other; for, however idle.

ness may be supportable in a state of society, in my solitary and forlorn condition it was perfect misery.

N. B. I was at this time very much incommoded by a troublesome companion, called the chigua; a small insect, which getting into the feet, there nestle and breed. They must be very carefully taken out with a needle, or the point of a knife. But my feet soon grew so callous, that I had no farther trouble with them.

CHAP. V.

THIRD YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

By my account, I found that I had now exceeded two years by a few days. I did not examine my reckoning often, as it always brought on a train of melancholy reflections. About this time, as I was on my walk eastward, I had the curiosity to taste the prickly pear fruit, and eat three of them. I then went in quest of guanos; and, when I arrived near to the place where the stone tower stood, I was surprised to find my urine as red as claret, and at once recollected, that the cause must proceed from my eating those pears. I must con-

fess it made me uneasy all that day ; but on the morrow, finding no ill consequences follow, all my fears vanished.

I must observe, that during the wet season I stirred but little from home, except to catch fish, as I could not well do without them. In all this long series of solitude, I never had the sight of one vessel, moving on the face of the ocean ; nor, since the Indians left me, had I once the opportunity of opening my lips to a fellow creature of my own species ; yet time had reconciled me to my condition, and notwithstanding the state of separation in which I lived, I had ceased to repine at my lot.

I must remark in this place an odd circumstance, which always happened after a slight shower of rain. It was this. Immediately as the rain ceased, I heard a noise, like that of a number of chickens ; nor could I, with all my industry, discover from what cause it proceeded, unless it

was made by the lizards; yet I have constantly kept my eyes fixed on them, and could discover no motion whatever which could occasion this noise as coming from them. I am to this moment ignorant of the cause.

N. B. It is not unlikely that it proceeded from a kind of land crab, called by the sailors and the West India fishermen, *fiddlers*.

I shall now give the reader an account how my household affairs stood, in regard to provision, and the various methods I had used at times to procure it. In the first place, I never wanted the three grand articles of fire, water, and fuel; fish never failed me. I had that kind of food in plenty, and of great variety; such as group-ars, hinds, porgies, black and red snappers, grunts, rainbows, parrot-fish, coneys, gil-lambours, doctor-fish, yellow tails, pork-fish, marget-fish, cuckold-fish, school-masters, tango, squirrel-fish, sucking-fish, and cray-fish. As for shark and barrow-coolers, I industriously avoided them, lest

they should rob me of too many hooks, which I valued above pearls. Sometimes indeed I would venture with my lines made of corritoo. I then went into about three fathom water, perhaps about a mile from shore, for the sake of novelty; there I caught old-wife, hog-fish, or small jew-fish; nevertheless, a shark would get the better of me sometimes, and carry away a hook. Here it may not be amiss to relate an odd adventure, which happened to me while I was at this amusement. The day was very still; a flat calm. As I sat very composed at my line, hanging over the side of the canoe, all at once I heard a violent rushing, as of a cannon-shot through the air. I immediately fell flat to the bottom of the boat, and lay still for about a minute; when I raised my head, I saw a large bird, called a man of war, rising up from the surface of the water, with the garbage of a fish I had lately

caught in its talons. A short time before I had taken a groupar, who had gorged my hook ; I opened him to recover it, and had thrown the guts overboard, and it had drifted away to some distance. This affair may seem trifling to many ; yet to me, a lonely creature, it was truly alarming, having never been disturbed by any noise louder than the cry of a poor bird.

As to fruit and vegetables, I never touched those I was a stranger to ; sapodillos, guavas, limes, maumees, cocoplumbs, cassia fistula, sea-grapes, colliloo, &c. &c., I made use of as I found them. Flesh, except that of guanos, and a few birds out of nests, was what I seldom tasted. I found out a way to catch the ground doves. I took notice, that after my great fire in the wood, numbers came there to bask in the ashes ; this gave me the hint to make fresh fires in bare places, among the ashes of which I laid snares,

and by this means took many of them, which, when roasted, afforded me a delicious meal.

When I was one day hunting this game, chance brought me to the spot where lay a young fawn, about two or three days old. I was just going to take it up in my arms, to bear it home, when I considered that if I did so I had no way to feed it ; I therefore determined to let it remain where I found it, and made it a visit every day to scrape its feet. I continued this attendance for near three weeks ; I then got some corritoo twine, and belayed it to a stump. The old one came always in the night to suckle it, as I suppose, for I could never get a sight of her by day. When it was about five weeks old, I brought it home to my place, and made it fast among the low trees hard by. It soon became the tamest of creatures ; and if at times I let it loose, it still attended me. It was a female, and I gave it the name of Miss Doe. It now

fed any where round my dwelling, and became so familiar as to follow me like a dog. One day I took it into my head to make trial of her attachment. I first made her fast, then got my boat round to the beach, returned and set her loose. She followed me to the sea side. I then got into my boat ; she jumped in after me, gazing wildly round her. No sooner did I put off, and she felt the motion of the boat, than she sprung out in an instant to a good distance, and there fell to capering and jumping like a mad thing. After this, I put along shore, and she stood with her head erect, gazing after me ; but on my whistling, she began to frisk it along the sands after me ; but I could not coax her into the canoe. I therefore put to and got out ; she immediately ran to me, reared up her fore-feet upon my shoulders, and then fell to licking my face.

I cannot describe how affecting this scene was to me ; it really made me shed tears of

joy. I reflected on the goodness of Divine Providence, for thus throwing in my path this poor inoffensive animal, to be the comfort and amusement of my solitary and disconsolate hours. She soon became so used to the boat, that she would jump in the moment I took my seat, and went with me any where.

About this time appeared on the coast a great number of whales ; I saw them first in the morning, as I was sauntering along the shore. They remained in sight the whole day, blowing and playing about ; on the morrow they were still to be seen ; and as I was attentively watching them, I saw one of them raise its body above half out of the water ; at other times their tails came out very high, flashing about ; and thus they kept sporting and blowing for three days, and then went away to the southward.

To return to my household matters. In the turtle season, which was generally

about June, July, and August, I fared sumptuously; but found my body break out in large blotches, after eating this delicious food for a long time together; yet it had this effect, that I became more healthy afterwards. At times I cut the lean parts of them into narrow strips, and laid them in brine; then hung them up in the sun till they became hard and dry. These strips I sometimes boiled with some colliloo in a large shell. My fish I either roasted, boiled, or stewed; but generally preferred the latter mode. I must observe, that I had one way, when I was particularly in haste, which was to cover up a fish, just out of the water, under the hot embers, where it remained about ten minutes; I then took off the skin entire, opened the belly, took out the entrails, and thus obtained the true flavour of the fish, as the sooner they can be cooked the better.

I must not omit to mention, that by frequent boilings my shells grew crazy, which

obliged me to look out for more. I took the greatest care of the few European articles I had by me. My head now ran on making baskets, and I resolved to make the trial. I chose out the most favourable twigs, but, to my great disappointment, found few that would answer my purpose. This put me on my old work of wattling again. I first made the bottom, then fixed uprights at the four corners, and wattled up between them; thus I formed an ordinary kind of basket, which would hold about half a bushel.

Some time after, as I happened to be out in my boat, near to the Bird's Key, going over a very shoaly place, I saw a very large fish close along side of the canoe; it was the first I had ever seen of the kind. I struck it on the head with my paddle, when it began to flounce about at a great rate. The water was so shallow that it had not depth enough to swim, at last I saw it was endeavouring to get round, and

thrust its long saw over the gunwale of my boat, which startled me not a little. I immediately jumped out on the off side with my paddle, and began to lay about me manfully ; but it got clear off, and struggled into deep water, and was soon out of sight. This fish seemed to be about ten feet in length. If I had had my grainge with a line, I might have taken it with ease.

I shall in this place mention a circumstance which often gave me much uneasiness, not being entirely free from that wretched prejudice, imbibed by the generality of children, respecting apparitions, which is first implanted in their tender minds by the ignorant superstition of nurses, or perhaps the more criminal ignorance of their own parents. The fearful apprehensions arising from this weakness had never left me, but had gained strength in my travels, and was particularly increased by keeping so much company with sailors,

who, of all other people, are the most superstitious. The circumstance which occasioned my present uneasiness was a noise which I often heard on moon-light nights; it was a kind of hollow treble tone, which seemed to utter "yaho ! yaho !" sometimes repeated three or four times together; this was answered by a similar sound at a distance. It was always heard to the westward of me in the high land. There was nothing particular in the noise itself, but what I might very naturally have accounted for; unfortunately, however, from an association of ideas, it had never failed to excite in me the greatest horror and dread imaginable; which I thus account for.

While I remained in Providence, I had frequent conversation with an old negro man, a native of Jamaica, who, in his younger days, had been well acquainted with many of the buccaneers, had sailed with them, and knew their haunts. This man had received his pardon under the

Queen's act of grace, and then followed piloting, or went out to hunt after wrecks about the coast.

This old man, whose name was William Bass, could write and read, and was well versed in the Scriptures; he had been in England, France, Spain, and all over the coast of the Spanish Main; yet was he superstitious to a very great degree. Among other stories, he related to me one concerning a sort of nocturnal animal, that walked upright as a man, and about the same size; it was black, and wonderfully swift of foot. It would suck the blood of the animals it caught, and leave them for dead. He observed also, that, by the track of the feet, one would be led to suppose their heels were placed foremost; the cry was similar to what I have related, and he said that nothing but a bullet of silver could kill one of them.

At the time this story was first mentioned to me, it made but a slight impression,

and I rather treated it with contempt; but when, in my solitary situation, the same sounds were vibrating in my ears, I had the weakness to believe what I had before rejected, and became terrified with the idea of not only hearing, but being visited by these blood-thirsty animals; and the more so, as the sounds were heard more distinctly, and seemed to come nearer than usual.

Thus time went on with me until the wet season was coming on, and I prepared to lay up a store of wood-brush, conches, &c. The latter I could keep by me for a long time, by making a small fence round them in the water, and by this means had my bait generally near at hand. About this time I had a frightful dream. I thought it was the wet season; the whole country was overflowed, and I was obliged to quit my cave in my canoe; like a second Noah, I wandered about for land, but could see only one small patch at a distance, for which I paddled with all my

force. This exertion awakened me, and I was happy to find it no more than a dream. I little thought then it would be verified so soon after, at least in a degree.

The rains came on ; and so great was the fall of water day by day, that it overflowed the lagoon quite up to the entrance of my dwelling. I was now forced to bestir myself with all diligence, hurrying away with all my poor articles to high-water mark, and securing them in the best manner I could. Here I was forced to remain, quite exposed to the weather, for two days, when at length it abated. In my great hurry I had forgotten my poor bird ; but Miss Doe stuck close by me. I now ventured to visit my cave, where I found the water had considerably subsided, and that, had I only retired into the back part with my things, all would have been safe. With great anxiety I began to search for poor Yellow-bill ; at last I found him in a low bush, but quite dead, as he had been

supplied with no food for three days, or more. I gave many a heavy sigh for the loss of my faithful and affectionate friend ; but, alas ! my grief was unavailing ; it was indeed augmented, by something like a consciousness of neglect.

I now began to consider with myself, that fire and water were no otherwise friendly to man than under strict limitations ; I resolved, therefore, to erect me a hurricane house, to which I might remove on the shortest notice. As soon as I had removed my things back to my cave, I began this work, and made it in the form of an awning, close at one end, and a door at the other, thatching it well with palmetto leaves. When I had completed this business, and began to be settled again, the loss of my poor bird weighed heavily on my spirits, and had not my fawn supplied its place, I should have felt my solitude more dreadful than ever.

One day as I was fishing, I discovered a

sail in the north-east quarter. She came away large, and in about an hour I could perceive it to be a small sloop; but she kept a great offing, and stood away to the southward; yet I kept my eyes on her as long as I could distinguish her, until she ran the horizon down. This sight, so new to me, introduced a train of melancholy reflections. I longed to be again with my fellow men; it occasioned a painful retrospect of my past life. I looked back with regret, and forward almost without hope. There is, however, a principle in the human mind which will not suffer it to yield entire possession to despair; it will always suggest some alleviation to present misery; some effort that may be made to render our condition better; to throw off the superflux of wretchedness with which it is loaded; and, with a pliancy suited to the occasion, will accommodate its powers to the trials to which we are exposed. I began to reflect, that most probably this

sloop belonged to the Spaniards ; and, however forlorn my situation might be, a visit from them would certainly not improve it. The possibility of being sent to work in the mines, made my present condition comparatively a happy one. Subdued by these reflections, my discontents vanished, and I became reconciled to a mode of life which at least promised me liberty and security. From this time, nothing happened of sufficient consequence to be remembered, till I found by my reckoning that I had begun another year.

CHAP. VI.

FOURTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

My fourth year commenced with as little expectation of any relief as the former ones; but my mind was easier and better satisfied. I used frequently to make a party at hunting at this time. The reader may perhaps wonder how I brought this about. It was thus. Early in the morning, I used to get every thing ready in my boat, and then, with my mate, Miss Doe, for whom I had made two small bags, to carry on her back any trifles I might want, I coasted along shore to the east lagoon. There I landed, and walked over land to the Tower

Field as I called it. Here I used to unload my companion, and then light a fire. From thence we proceeded to a sandy plain, the constant resort of the guanos, and where they burrow in the ground like our rabbits. They run very swift; but now and then I got up with them, and, either by strength or stratagem, accomplished my purpose. When within reach, I used to knock them down with a short stick; but if they got so far the start of me as to gain their holes, I then made fire over their burrows, which never failed to fetch them out, and they became an easy prey. When I had often practised this sport, Miss Doe began to take a more active part in it; and when she perceived me in full chace of a guano, she would fly off, and be up with it in a trice; she would then often beat the creature dead with her fore feet. This new mode would have given much diversion to our English sports-

men, to see a man hunt with a deer instead of a dog.

I now began to consider, that the reason of my never seeing above one vessel during my stay here, was the knowledge that the coast was very dangerous and full of shoals, banks, and reefs, and that it might possibly be long ere I should see another. They who chanced to fall in with the land in the day time, knew how necessary it was to keep a good offing, if possible.

A few days after I had made these conjectures, a large vessel hove in sight, standing to the northward; she was about four leagues out. The view of her renewed all my regrets; and when I parted sight with her, I could have lain me down and died. Time again worked my cure, and after a few weeks I returned to my usual tranquillity, and resolved, that whatever might happen I would repine no more. Such is the mind of man; we are but little capa-

ble of foreseeing or knowing what is most advantageous to us; we reason from human experience, which is often a fallible guide, and arrogate to ourselves the privilege of judging, without the possibility of knowing the consequences which may result from our decision. If things turn out as we wish, we congratulate ourselves on our sagacity and foresight; we take all the merit to ourselves, and never consider that there is an overruling Providence that directs and governs all events. I must confess, that I charge myself with this presumption. The eager and longing desire I had to be in the ship I had lately seen, might have proved my ruin; she might have been an enemy to my country, and have taken me into slavery for the remainder of my life, or we might all have perished together in the ocean. Oh, my God! thy ways are inscrutable to feeble and short-sighted mortals: Thou directest us by means best suited to the ends of our

being, and often turnest our greatest calamities into occasions of rejoicing! These reflections are fully justified by what soon followed.

According to my account, I had been on this shore about three years and two months. The wind blowing very fresh, I had not been abroad for several days; it still continued at south, with frequent rain and thunder storms. When it became more settled, I resolved to make a trip over to the Bird Island after conches and welks. Accordingly I put off the next morning very early. I had not gone far out before I saw a canoe about a mile to the westward of my dwelling, and two people on shore. I directly put back, hoping they had not seen me, and hauled up my canoe; I then ran along shore, and got to a convenient place behind some trees. There appeared no more than two persons; one standing, the other sitting, near the canoe. Soon after I saw them retire up

to the bushes ; they came down again, and both looked into their canoe, then ran about the strand, making many odd motions, threw themselves on the ground, and acted like men bereft of their reason.

At length I determined to get nearer to them, as I knew there could not be many of them, by the size of their boat. I approached them so near, that I plainly perceived one to be a woman. Now they seemed to caress each other, then suddenly fell into the most extravagant antics, throwing the sand over their heads, and crying in the strangest way imaginable. I was quite at a loss to know what all this could mean. At last I resolved to shew myself. I had nothing on at that time, but my bonnet, a rag round my waist, and my paddle in my hand ; and thus I sallied down on the beach. They were at this time not sixty yards from me. No sooner did they get sight of me, than they ran

among the bushes. I hallooed to them, but they never cast an eye back. I then walked up to the canoe, where I found a very aged man in her bottom, who to all appearance was at the point of death. I took him by the hand, but he did not open his eyes; whereupon I spoke loud, and he just lifted up his eyelids, and seemed to look on me. I then began again to call loudly to them; the lad shewed himself. I beckoned to him, but he did not move at first; at length, however, he came on a little, then stopped again. I continued to invite him, and he came nearer, till he was at length within a few paces of me; he then threw himself at my feet, taking one of them and placing it on his head, returned it, and did the same with the other. Upon this I lifted him up, patted him on his back, and took him by the hand. He stood before me as a person astonished and terrified. I smiled in his face, which gave him some courage, and

he went to the canoe, and spoke to the old man, but he closed his eyes, and died away. I made signs to him to call the woman, which he did; she advanced in the same cautious manner, but gave still greater indications of fear; on my giving her all the signs of friendship in my power, she practised the same ceremonies as the lad; threw herself at my feet, placed them upon her head, &c. During this time, the old man in the canoe gave a deep groan, and expired.

When I found the old man was actually dead, I made signs for them to get into their canoe, and to paddle along shore, as I directed them; which they readily obeyed, and followed me, till we came to the spot where my boat lay. I launched her, and made signs for them to follow me still further; which they did, in profound silence, until we arrived at my cave. I landed, and invited them on shore, in the most friendly manner. They began to cast their

eyes round them, seemingly in great concern ; and now and then looked sorrowfully at each other. I then produced some fish, and placed it before them, but they shook their heads, and declined it, and appeared to be very melancholy.

The reader will observe, that I had now a great deal of business upon my hands ; first, to provide for my new tenants, and then to bury the corpse of the old man. And it may not be amiss here, to give some sketch of their persons.

The girl seemed to be about the age of seventeen, and nearly five feet three inches in height ; her complexion was nut brown, or rather a slighter tint ; her eyes black, and the whites of them of a china cast, inclining to a blue ; her nose and mouth small, her teeth, white as snow, and even as dice ; her neck and bosom, of the finest form imaginable, and her arms and legs were finely proportioned : her hair was black as jet, parted before, and curi-

ously tied behind, hanging down in plaitings, united together by strings of beads, of many colours, to a great length. Round her neck, arms, and legs, she wore three rows of teeth, belonging to the tiger, or some such animal; and round her loins ran a narrow piece of wove striped cotton.

The lad seemed to be about a year younger, but stronger built; his hair hung over his forehead and shoulders, as nature had disposed it, and in no small quantity; he had no other dress than a slight piece of striped cotton round his middle. As they were both of a height, and resembled each other much in features, I sometimes thought they might be twins.

The remainder of the day was spent in endeavouring to inspire them with confidence, and fix in their minds a good impression of me. They however continued silent and melancholy, which might proceed from their being so suddenly sur-

prised by me ; or, perhaps, more particularly for the old man's death. Tears continually fell on the bosom of the girl, whenever she cast her eyes towards their canoe. The lad's trouble seemed to be of a more manly kind.

But as just now there was much to be done, I could spare but little time for condolence. I had a lodging to provide for the strangers, and the funeral of the old man to prepare. I took part of my own couch, and carried it to my tent, spread it the best I could, and then shewed them where to turn in for the night ; they obeyed in a very condescending manner, and with expressions of gratitude.

I slept but little the whole night, and by the peep of day took my canoe and went to fishing. I returned in about two hours, and found them both sitting in their own canoe, weeping. I went up, and cheered them in the best manner I could, and then began to light my fire ; this

done, I fell to cooking as fast as possible, and having finished, invited them to partake of my meal. The lad came directly, but the girl declined it. I went to her, took her by the hand, led her to the table, and made her sit down. I then gave each of them a roasted fish; hunger now vanquished grief, and they both ate heartily, which pleased me much. After breakfast, I made signs to them to follow me to the canoe. I took up the corpse by the head and shoulders, pointing for them to take up the legs: they did so, and we carried it to some distance and laid it down. I then began to dig a sort of grave with my paddle, which having finished, I made them help to lift it in. I now sat down to rest myself, and to observe what would be their behaviour on the occasion; but they seemed only to watch my motions. I therefore began to cover the corpse, and fill up the grave with sand, in which office the lad readily assisted me. When we

had finished, the poor girl threw herself flat on the sand, and wept bitterly ; and it was with some reluctance I could get them to follow me back to the cave.

I must here observe, that on the first appearance of my new guests, Miss Doe, from excessive bashfulness, had retired and hid herself, but the next day she again made her appearance, and when we carried the old man to his grave, she followed at a distance.

In two or three days, my new friends became more familiar, which convinced me they began to entertain a good opinion of me. They conversed more together. Nothing could be softer than the language from their mouths ; but it seemed to me extremely difficult to attain, as they had a way of drawing in their words with the breath, and then uttered them as from the throat. I found the girl very modest and bashful, particularly when I looked at her ; she would pretend not to observe

me, yet every now and then, I caught her viewing me from the corner of her eye, when she thought I was otherwise engaged.

In about seven or eight days, we became quite sociable together ; and I observed, when we were on the shore, they were continually pointing to the southward ; and sighs would often escape from the poor girl's bosom, while the lad would say a great deal to me. There was a difficulty which I very much wished to get over ; this was to find out their names. I took notice, when they spoke to each other, there was a variation in certain words, but I could not particularly catch the term of address. To satisfy myself, I took the following method. One day as the girl was washing some fish out of the canoe, and knowing the lad to be out of sight, I made signs for her to call him ; but here I was completely foiled, for, standing up, she began to cry out in a small shrill

voice, "hoo, oo, oo, a hee," and he came immediately : I bid him stir up the fire, as a pretence for calling him ; but as we were afterwards sitting at our meal, I pointed to my breast, and said, "Penrose." The lad understood me directly, and nodding his head, looked at his sister, then pointing to his own breast, said "Ayasharre, Ayasharre ;" and directing his finger to the girl, said "Yalut-ta, Yalut-ta". I believed I had succeeded, but was resolved to make another trial, to put the matter beyond a doubt. Accordingly, a short time after, I took an opportunity of calling "Ayasharre;" he came running and smiling to me immediately. After this, I took occasion to go into the cave, and called the girl, in the best manner I could ; she came at once, and I gave her a shell, to bring me some water. I was now fully satisfied. I had so often occasion to repeat the lad's name, that I was resolved to shorten it ; and as it bore so great a resemblance to Harry, from this

time I gave him that name. I took the same method with the girl, and called her Luta.

Hitherto, I had not meddled with any thing I saw in their canoe. I now went with Harry to examine the contents. The first thing he took out was a yam, and ran with it immediately to the fire to roast it for me. I soon stopped and prevented him. It was too precious a jewel to me to be so disposed of. I soon made them understand that I would plant it in the ground. With that he ran to the canoe and brought up three more. My joy was so great on this occasion, I could hardly express it.

We now went to examine the remainder of their freight ; and the following is a faithful account of the cargo, viz.—

Two very neat paddles, bladed at each end. Two small harpoons, fixed with lines and staves. A bow, with several arrows, headed with sharp stones and sting-ray's bones. A small silver bell. Some half-roasted turtle. A few eggs. Part of a

dead dog, or some animal resembling it, which stunk abominably. Several sorts of fruits and roots—part we used and part we planted. But what was of infinitely more value to me than the whole cargo, was a small hatchet, as good as new ; on it was stamped the maker's name, Pedro Munoz, Cadiz, by which I found they had intercourse with the Spaniards.

It was with the greatest difficulty that I could keep my legs in this canoe ; yet they had a small mast and a mat sail, which they could ship and unship as they had occasion ; and I afterwards saw four or more tall Indians stand and paddle in such a one with great dexterity, though I am persuaded the most expert of our seamen would not have been able to keep his balance in her.

I now began to teach them a few words ; and the first which Harry caught was “ come,” as he heard it so often repeated by me. The girl behaved with great reserve whenever I aimed to instruct her. But one day as we

were sitting together, the deer coming up to her, she said "Miss Doe," as plain as I could speak it myself. The method I pursued with them was this. Every morning I shewed them two or three objects, named them, and made them repeat after me. By this means I found they made a rapid progress. Harry would sometimes ask me the name of a thing he had forgotten, when the girl never failed to set him right. I found by this, though she did not speak so often as her brother, yet she retained what she heard much better in her memory.

These poor innocent young creatures became every day more dear to me. As much as was in their power, they would anticipate all my wishes. It was their delight to take directions from me, and to obey them with a ready cheerfulness, which convinced me of their regard. I used every method to conciliate their affection and esteem ; but, at the same time, I so carried myself, that they should consider me as their superior.

Harry was so delighted with my method

of striking fire, that he would ask me for my knife now and then, to try the experiment himself; and would even put the fire out for the purpose of lighting it again, so that I sometimes was obliged to refuse him.

It happened that one day I took Harry with me to view the burnt ruin I had made by setting fire to the wood. The girl perceiving my intentions, began to weep. I very much wished to know the cause. Upon this she threw her arms round her brother's neck, and whispered some words. Desiring to know the meaning of this, he was sadly put to it to make the necessary explanation, but began thus: "You go, me go, Yalutta go not—never come—dead—sick—die." I took her by the hand, and told her she should go too, as I could not bear to see her unhappy. So off we went together, with Miss Doe in company. When we came to the spot, I was much surprised to find so great a change since I was last there. So

many things had sprung up ; and even on the shrubs many blossoms were to be seen. I therefore determined to plant my yams in this spot. Miss Doe, perceiving so great a plain space before her, would often set off and race away to a great distance ; yet, immediately on my whistling, she would bound back again as swift as an arrow.

The next day I made them take the yams to the same place and plant them ; and from their increase we had a plentiful supply ever after. Some months passed on thus in the most perfect harmony, when an accident happened which perplexed me not a little. One day I went to examine my reckoning, and found that I had more shells than I ought to have. I could not conceive the meaning of this. I turned it much in my mind, but said nothing, resolving if possible to discover the cause. I must confess I had my suspicions, and soon found them confirmed. Two or three days after, I observed Harry bring in a few

shells, and throw them in the basket before my face ; and, as it appeared, with perfect good will, and with the intention to oblige me. Not finding it possible to explain to him the use I made of these shells, I told him there was more than enough, and turned it off with a laugh.

It now became necessary to invent some plan to reckon my time by ; and I determined on the following—to cut it on the trees with my knife ; and for that purpose I looked out a large cedar tree, or rather fig tree, whose bark resembles in texture that of our beech. On one of these trees I cut the date of my full time, as near as I could conjecture, by fifty days at a time. I was just three years and two months, when I first found them, on my shore, and at this time they had been with me about four months ; so that I fixed the period at three years and six months.

From this time, I continued to add by fifties ; giving Harry a strict charge never

to touch the marks, on pain of my great displeasure ; and as he considered these characters as a kind of conjuration, he studiously avoided even touching the tree.

Having mentioned this fig tree, I shall give the reader some account of its singular qualities. It resembles in no respect the tree of the same name with us in Europe. In its infant state, it grows perhaps to the height of nine or ten feet, at which time it becomes so weak as to want support.

N. B. This tree is always to be found within three or four feet of a stately cedar. When it has grown to about the height before mentioned, as if from instinct, it parts into two arms, bending towards the cedar tree, which it clasps, or rather embraces closely, and by this means is prevented from falling to the ground. Having gained this support, it begins to climb, growing daily stouter and higher ; and I have often observed, that when other trees intervene, it

cautiously avoids them, and makes its way to the cedar in preference. It thus continues to increase in strength and magnitude, till it towers above the tops of the highest trees in the forest. At the same time its body, having the like kind of adhesive quality, extends itself in such a manner round the bark of the cedar, that it totally envelopes its kind benefactor, which is only here and there to be discovered. Indeed, in process of time, the whole external appearance becomes an ample fig tree, as no part of the cedar can be perceived. Of this fact I have seen many hundred instances

I was accustomed to make a moral use of this spectacle. I considered my own tender and affectionate parent as the benevolent cedar, that yielded me nourishment and support when I was incapable of providing for my weakness; that, having attained size and strength to stand erect by myself, I had suffered her to wither and die

away, as the sap from the cedar, and had elevated myself, by ungratefully contributing to extinguish the life and substance of my benefactress. But let me hope that I have made some atonement for my ingratitude, by the sincere contrition I have felt, and the troubles and mortifications I have since that day experienced.

One evening as Harry and I were walking on the shore, I chanced to hear the Yaoho's cry. Upon this I bid him to listen, and asked him what he knew concerning this noise, expecting to hear some strange odd story; but to my no small confusion, he laughed, and said, "that birry."—"What is birry?" said I.—"Bird," answered he, "go all nights, bite birds little;" then, clapping his hand to his mouth, made exactly the same noise. This was enough; I at once concluded it to be nothing more than an owl, or some such nocturnal bird; and called myself an owl or

an ass, for swallowing the idle tales which had terrified me.

N. B. It must not be supposed, that the events I have related happened in the exact chronological order in which I have given them, but in or near the time, as well as I can remember ; not having the use of pen, ink, and paper, till the Dutch ship was lost many years after.

In order to divert the time, I used to play at quoits now and then with my messmate Harry ; and this he learned to such perfection as soon to be an overmatch for me. Often, when we were at this sport on the beach, Luta, as I called her, appeared to be much elated whenever I won the game. This I found never failed to occasion much snickering between her and Harry ; but as it always passed in their own language, they thought I paid no attention to it. Some time after this, as they were together with me in the cave, Harry

came and stood before me, and said, "Where you come?" This I knew was meant to ask me from whence I came. I was at a loss how to give him, in language, the information he required ; so I pointed to the sea, and made signs that I had slept often during my voyage in a canoe, before I arrived at this shore. This I found made them very thoughtful, and the girl wept much. To pass it off as well as I could, I began to instruct them in words. Harry, observing me to be much pleased with his sister's pronunciation, leaped up at once on his feet, and taking Luta's hand, put it into mine ; then fell to shouting, hallooing, whooping, dancing, and making his obedience to us, after the manner I had learnt him ; and thus he went on like one frantic with joy. All this while the girl stood looking silently on the ground. I then made signs to Harry that I understood him well, and was pleased with his proposal. Indeed, it was impossible to have

any objection, as she was a young creature of so charming a disposition, and so ready on all occasions to administer every kind office in her power. I then asked Luta if she was willing to be my wife, explaining by signs what I meant. Perhaps the reader may have no little curiosity to learn what answer she made me. It was thus : “ Penoly”—this was as near the sound of my name as they could catch—“ Penoly no go,” pointing to the sea ; “ Luta make fire all day.” She then fell on her knees, and kissed my feet, then placed one of them on her head. Upon this, I lifted her up. When Harry saw this, he ran and clasped us both round, then began to dance, sing, and whoop, louder than before, uttering confusedly, and without order, all the English he knew. I plainly understood all this as the unfeigned expressions of his joy, and gave him the satisfaction of knowing that I was much gratified with it.

Our wedding was thus accomplished without much external form, but with as pure sentiments of love and affection as ever warmed two youthful hearts. Never did a young couple come together on more equal terms; our love, our interest, our fortune, our desires, and our intentions, were all one—that of becoming helpmates to each other; and I felt grateful to Providence for the blessing it had bestowed on me, in this faithful creature as my partner for life. Our vows were exchanged before Heaven, in a temple not made with hands; and I trust, though they were offered in the wilderness, they were accepted by that Being who delights in the happiness of his creatures.

This event took place just three years and seven months after my landing on the Spanish shore, or Main coast, as I learnt it afterwards to be, though at that time I supposed it to be an island. I now proposed to Harry that he should sleep in my

bower, to which he readily consented ; and I told him, whenever he could find out a wife for himself it would make me extremely happy.

Some time after this great affair was settled, my new brother and I went over to the Bird Island to procure conches and eggs. When we came on the shoal, and had hauled up our boat near a clump of bushes, there seemed to be a great stir beneath them. On examination, we found a multitude of shell-fish, or rather amphibious gentry, called *soliers* or *soldiers*, from their red colour. As there is something singular in the nature of these creatures, I shall give a description of them, to the best of my knowledge and ability ; viz. they are always to be found in shells of different kinds ; but the welk is the largest they like to dwell in. The fore-part of this small animal resembles the lobster when boiled ; the after-part within the shell is of so delicate a nature, that it will not bear the

slightest injury. They either come out of, or go into the sea, to possess themselves of the shells; and what is remarkable, that, soldier-like, they have most warlike dispositions, and are continually fighting and committing hostilities on each other. In these contests, they often beat each other out of their tents, never failing to take advantage of an empty house, immediately on the other quitting it. As they grow larger, they shift from one shell to another. They are good eating, roasted on the coals, leaving the shell directly as the fire touches them. They pinch sharply with their claws when first caught. Having taken about half a peck of these soldiers, I walked towards a point where there were many pelicans, and some so young that they could not fly. I had been but a short time on this spot, when the old ones began to be very troublesome; taking a circuit round me, gliding on the wing, they would every now and then return, and give me

such slaps on my head, that I was obliged to defend myself with my paddle as I retreated.

Having gathered a few eggs, I returned to the canoe, where Harry shewed me a large fish called a ten-pounder, which he had struck with his dart. These fish are shaped like a mullet, exceeding swift of fin, but very bony. This gave me a specimen of my new brother's dexterity, as he struck it in its full career, as a good shotsman would a swallow on the wing. We now began to hunt for a few large shells; and as we were at this work, Harry took up a trace of an odd kind of stuff, such as I had often kicked before me on the shore. He told me it was a parcel of young conches; and on opening one of the parts, it proved to be so, there being more than forty young ones in the cells, all completely formed. This trace of stuff was at least two yards long, and must have contained some thousands, being joined close together, and in

form like to the plant house-leek, of an odd texture, and in colour resembling sandy yellow.

This leads me to remark, that shell fish, as they increase in age and magnitude, retire into still deeper water ; and this is the reason why we so seldom find the shells with the fish in them of a great size, though smaller ones are frequently found ; the others never coming into shoal water, but when worked up by tempestuous weather. In confirmation of this, as I was fishing in about ten fathom water, there came up with my hook a very large shell with the fish alive in it, of the helmet species. I had seen thousands of them before, along the shore, but not of one quarter the size of that I brought up, which weighed at least from ten to twelve pounds.

When we were about fifty yards from the shore, I discovered a small chicken turtle on the top of the water. I shewed it to Harry, who, snatching up his dart,

bade me paddle slowly for it. I did so, and he struck it in the back. The shaft dropped out, and away she towed us; he tending the line, which was fastened to the head of the boat, till she grew tired. We then got her in; she weighed about twenty pounds; and we returned home and made a feast with it.

This adventure determined me to make a strong line for the purpose, which, by the assistance of my brother Harry, was soon completed; and we often procured turtle in abundance. I now began to contrive how we should make a small turtle-crawl to confine a few of them as they were caught. This, with much labour, we accomplished to our satisfaction.

Finding that my companions began to understand English, so as fully to comprehend my meaning, I began to interrogate them about their country. I asked Luta, how far off was the place she came from? She shook her head, and said, "About

three sleep and three wakes," meaning about three days journey ; but Harry said, " It was long more than four sleep, he was certain." I asked her then, who was the old man who died in the canoe? She said, " He was her moder-fader, called Co-duuno ; that their own moder was dead, and their fader put dead by the fighting men ; that she and Harry lived with the old man ; that they had two broders and two sisters, who were married to men and women like she and I were." I then asked them if any white men came among them? They said, " Not every day, but once in many sleeps ; she had never seen but three of them, and they were old men, and it was long ago ; once when she was so high," (holding her hands about three feet from the ground). I inquired what they did when they came? " They brought crooked sticks with them," she said, " and made the women tell every thing." I then

asked, if they did not exchange things with them? “Yes, some small—all for good,” she said, “but her people did not like to walk with them.” “Why?” “Because,” she said, “they kill all her old people long while ago, when the very old trees were small, as she heard old men say, but now much more grown every where;—her people had no way to get out from them, and they could not push them into the sea.” I asked Harry, if their people did not eat men when they killed them in fight? He gave me a sneer, and spit on the ground; saying, “No! no! no! never! not eat! but that the old men said such things had been done when the moon was a little star.”

I then inquired how they came to this shore. To this he made answer, that they came out to fish and catch turtle; but when they had been out two days, the old man had a fit, which, as I understood them, he was much subject to; that the

wind came off the shore so strong that they could not regain it; and finding the old man grow worse and worse, they had at length gained my place, after being out nine days, drifting away with the current, quite out of their knowledge, having never been so far from home before.

“Should you be willing to go back,” said I?

On this they both eagerly cried, “Go! Yes,—go, you go—you go.”

I told them that I would go when I could find the way thither; and then dropped the subject.

Thus things went on till my fourth year ran out.

CHAP. VII.

FIFTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

ONE evening as we were all sitting together, I resumed the subject of their going back again. On this they both caressed me fondly, and said, "yes, go—one, two, three." "No," said I, "if I should go, your people do not know me, and would have nothing to say to me; but there is your canoe, go when you please, and I can remain as you found me." This I said to try them.

Upon this a kind of sullen silence ensued; and I observed the tears fall from the girl's eyes. I took her in my arms,

and told Harry to observe his sister. He then began to weep too, and said, "I never go, Penoly, out you and Luta." In the midst of this affecting scene, I felt something sting me on my thigh sharply. I immediately got up, and found a huge centipede under me. The pain in a short time became almost intolerable, and gave them so sudden an alarm, that fear became the predominant passion, and at once dissipated all their other apprehensions. Harry ran and killed the insect; and pounding it with wet dirt, laid it on my thigh; and Luta bound it up after the best way she could. I then laid myself down—was in a fever for above an hour, with my head on the girl's lap, who was weeping over me in the most affectionate manner. I fell asleep. How long I lay I know not; but when I awoke I was almost choked with thirst. They gave me some fish soup; and by the morning I felt not the least uneasiness. When I began to shew myself as usual,

Luta said to me, softly, "me never go, Penoly no go—but Penoly go—Harry go—Luta go."

I had now began to reflect with myself, that no true pleasure can be felt which occasions the slightest pain to others; and as it was but a wanton kind of trial of their affections, I was properly served, and ought to be fully satisfied with the rebuke I had received, without trying upon them any more such painful experiments.

Harry was now my prime minister in all my undertakings. One day as he returned from gathering wood, he brought with him a large yellow snake. I had seen some of them before, as well as a small green sort, with another striped like a barber's pole, with black and yellow. I asked him what he would do with it; "eat it," he said. "Do so, then, if you can stand the poison." He cut off the head, skinned, and gutted it, then laid it on the coals; when it was done, he brought it to me to

taste, but I declined it. I asked Luta, if she liked it, she said, "yes, very good." When I saw them fall to with such appetite, I tasted it, and must confess that it was as tender as a chicken, and of a fine flavour. Another time he brought home a prodigious large calabash on his head. I was then in the cave, and Luta called me out to see it. And I must confess it was the largest fruit production I had ever seen; to speak within reason, it could not weigh less than eight-and-twenty to thirty pounds. Harry cut it in two, and then began to scoop it out; when it was thus made hollow, each part would at least contain a gallon of water. I laid the two parts by in the shade to harden; it then became of great use to us, always standing in the cave, full of water, for our use and comfort.

Shortly after this, I determined to revisit the new lagoon, where I found the turtle skulls; therefore I bade Harry get

ready both canoes; and the next day we dressed a few fish, and filled one of the large shells or divisions of the calabash with water, and left the cave; Luta and myself in my canoe, Harry and Miss Doe in the other. We had no interruption in our passage, but arrived at the place of skulls with ease; then proceeded to a grove of mangroves, close on the water. Here we saw a great multitude of mullets, and other fish, with plenty of whistling ducks, cranes, galdings, the bald eagles, fish hawks, &c.; and being in greater numbers than I had seen before, were a sure sign of much fish in the lagoon. There was a channel of about four or five feet deep all the way to the mouth of it; but at the entrance the water deepened to two fathoms in most places, till we came up it near half a mile, when it became shallower by degrees. The length of this lagoon is about a mile, or perhaps something more, with its entrance so shut in

by a point, that at the distance of one hundred yards it is not perceptible. When we got to the head of it, we observed a large and spacious place, with a beautiful fall of water coming down from a cliff about forty feet high, with fine trees overhanging every part. This water made its course to the lagoon, down a fine lawn, mixed with patches of gravel, for the distance of about one hundred yards. Nothing could exceed the beauty of this scene; it formed a kind of semicircle, measuring, by computation, about a mile, every where environed by groves and thickets, except as you advance on the right, where you may walk among the trees to the summit, and have a complete view of the whole area, with the lagoon, woods, lawn, and sea in the distance.

I now told Harry to make fast both canoes, and we then proceeded up the lawn together, quite to the waterfall. As we advanced, a large flock of parrots flew

over our heads, making a strange outcry. On this we halted, it being the first time I had ever seen any of these birds wild. As I was thus gazing round me, I perceived at some distance an opening amongst the rocks; thither we bent our course, and on a nearer view we found a passage between them, near to which was a cavern, with its entrance oblique to the lagoon, and, as it were, facing the fall of water, or rather the streamlet which came from the fall. I know not how to give an exact description of this place, unless I say, that it had the appearance of a high Gothic arch, about twenty feet perpendicular; it was irregular, and near thirty feet wide, composed of a rugged kind of rock, and the floor fine gravel and small stones. I desired them to follow me, as I was resolved to explore it thoroughly. As we advanced, the echo was so great, that though we spoke low, our voices sounded tremendously. When we entered about

five yards, I found the roof began to be more lofty than at the entrance; and before we proceeded farther, I bade Harry return and gather some sticks, and kindle a fire. After he had done this, we made a farther entrance, with fire-brands in our hands. I now discovered many marks and letters cut on the rock on both sides the entrance, similar to those I had found cut on the tower stone; by this I found that others had been here before me. I did not think them worth the pains of copying, except in two instances, where the names were cut at length, viz. Martin Fletcher, and George Needham, 1670. We now took fresh brands, and advanced forwards. In a short distance, we found it contracted on all sides to about half the magnitude, and inclined much to the left; we should have been enveloped in total darkness, had we not used the lighted brands. We were now suddenly arrested by a strange noise within, which soon

made us scamper back as fast as possible, and we were speedily followed by a set of harpies, as ugly and deformed as the most terrified imagination could have conceived; these were no other than enormous bats, the ancient proprietors of the premises, who seemed resolved to defend their possession against all intruders. However, we were not so easily to be overcome. A thorough knowledge of the cause of our fear made us despise it. I bid Harry get fresh lights, resolved to make a further search. He readily complied, and I could scarcely refrain from laughter when I saw him return, running and whooping, with a legion of these nocturnal gentry before him, whirling the fire-brand round his head, crying, "poo, poo, poo, poo," and laughing violently at the same time, till he hurried almost out of sight. I soon followed, and asked him if he had found the end; "yes, yes," he said, "I put hand there too" "And how is it?" I said.

“Very dark, very little, short,” he replied; by which I knew he had been to the end of it.

Soon after this, Harry pointed and shewed me a very fine plantain tree, and I presently saw two more. This so charmed me, that I turned short round to Luta, and asked her if she should like to live there. She said, “yes, if I liked to come live too.” Upon this, I came to a full-resolution of moving without farther delay. I was so delighted with the place that I never reflected on the obstacles which opposed our making it immediately our sole residence; such as the distance from our yam patch, and becoming quite land-locked from the sea, &c. This made me pause a little. On the other hand, I began to consider the advantages; that we should be quite safe from storms and inundations, the plantain trees almost at our door, and that, by the hatchet, we could easily clear a way up to the cliff, where we could have a more

extensive view of the sea, than from the simple beach. These and other reasons turned the scales, and I resolved at once to put the scheme in execution.

Here we spent the remainder of the day, and prepared to sleep within the great entrance that night, with three fires burning before us. This we accomplished without any other disturbance, than now and then a bat would fly in and awaken us with the noise of his wings. At the break of day we set off, and arrived at our old habitation in good order, and found every thing safe at home as we had left it.

My mind now began to run strongly on my new situation, and I communicated all my thoughts to Harry. Upon the whole he approved of my plan, but started some objections, which had not occurred to me, viz. the great distance from our turtle crawl, the guano ground, and the little probability there would be of finding drift wood. In all other respects he joined with

me in giving the preference to this place, as contributing much more to our comforts ; and I determined to remove as soon as possible. In regard to the guano ground and plantation it might be somewhat inconvenient for the present ; but when we were settled, we would plant nearer home, and make a new crawl for our turtle in the most convenient place we could find. So far we all agreed.

Having fixed the day for leaving the cave, we accordingly began to make our preparations. One morning as Harry was out after drift wood on the shore, he spied a canoe, and came running to us almost out of breath, crying, " boat, boat, canoe-boat." Away I ran with him, Luta, in a great fright, following us, not knowing what had passed. When we came on the beach, I saw a canoe standing right in for our shore, and about a mile off. There were three savages in her, standing quite erect, with their

paddles, intending, as I supposed, to land about half a mile below us. We all three retired into the bushes. What step we should take in this critical moment was yet to be determined. I began to observe my companions, and found that both Harry and Luta seemed very uneasy, though they had been so much for my going with them before. I encouraged them in the best manner I could ; and thus we watched the landing of the savages. They soon came to shore, hauled up their boat, and one of them pointed directly to our cave. They began their march towards us. I therefore concluded they had either seen us or our smoke, and was resolved to meet them boldly. When they came within two hundred yards of us, I bade Harry go down on the beach ; then took Luta by the hand, and followed, she trembling with fear. We were in a manner as naked as those we were going to meet, except that I had a pair of striped trowsers on, and my bon-

net on my head. The instant they perceived us they stopped short; I then hailed them; they answered me. To shew that I was in no kind of fear, I advanced boldly up to them; one of them called out, "Espania?" I answered, "no; Englese." On this, they all said, "Signor Capitano, bon, bon." I had taken the precaution of calling myself an Englishman, from what I had learnt from Harry and his sister of the disposition of their countrymen towards our nation. I then made signs for them to follow me.

When I found them inclined to be friendly, I told Harry to try if he could understand them. But how was I surprised when I saw him fly up to one of them in a transport of joy, and call him by name. They all three at once got about him. I shall not pretend to give a description of their expressions of ecstasy on recognising him—it is out of my power. Harry pointed to his sister. I had no oc-

casion to apply to her for an explanation of this. It was the language of the heart. It spoke intelligibly to all our feelings. They were of the same nation—probably of the same kindred; and I could perceive, during the conference, that they looked with confidence and esteem on me.

I could hold out no longer. I joined them; when Luta, throwing her arm round my shoulder, gave them to understand that I was her husband. They all three saluted me kindly in their way; at the same time, examining my person, remarked, that I was larger than they; for they were light small men, but well proportioned. I was anxious to obtain more information, and told Harry to invite them home with us. They expressed the greatest wonder and amazement when they heard Harry and Luta talk English to me. They would often lift their hands over their heads, crying, “O wah, wah he!”

I then inquired of Harry whom they were. He told me the elderly man was Komaloot, his sister's husband's brother; the tallest of the other two was Futatee; the third he did not know.

This intelligence gave me much pleasure. We soon arrived at the cave. I now bade Harry and his sister sit down with them, and talk over every thing. Luta soon became very talkative. I found the subject was their being driven in the canoe, and arriving at this shore. I then desired Harry to prepare a mess for them; which he flew to perform immediately. I remarked one thing very peculiar in these people, that they shewed their teeth much, very rarely closing their lips in conversation.

I now wanted to learn whether accident or design brought them to this shore. Luta made the inquiry; and gave me the following answer: That there had been a great canoe lost lately, and that her friends

had been out in the great water to it for what they could find. I bid her ask if any of the people were saved. They said no; but they found four dead men. I then inquired whether they were English or Spaniards; they replied the latter, by their clothes and little wooden crosses about their necks—saying they knew the English threw such things away, unless they were made of gold or silver, as the English did not use wooden gods, thinking them of no value. This made me smile upon Luta; and she said something that made them all laugh. I inquired what it was. She very ingenuously told me, that she had informed them I had no god at all that she ever saw. I asked her how she could tell that. Her answer at once closed my mouth, and penetrated to my heart—“If I had one I had never shewn him to her.” I felt convicted of ingratitude to my maker and preserver, and of injustice towards her, to have so long left her mind in complete ignorance, and thus

to have deprived her of the comforts and consolation of religion.

To return to my narrative. I asked Luta what they said concerning her and her brother being missing in the canoe, which drifted to this shore. She said they informed her, that her friends had been all along the coast in search of them, but had given them up long ago, thinking that they had either perished at sea, or that some vessel had taken them up and carried them away; that the old man's wife was dead; also one of her sisters called Niuxa.

When she repeated the names, I saw her eyes fill with tears.

One of the Indians asked, whether I was not afraid to live there on account of the rainy season? I bid her tell him, that I was going to remove to a more convenient situation; and that I would shew it to them before they returned home if they would stay a day or two. They told Harry they would; and were going to make a

small hut to sleep in while they remained with us. We then made a good meal of such things as we could set before them. After they had done, Harry and one of them went to bring round their canoe. When it came I observed they had collected several things out of the wreck, by which I knew it to be a Spaniard.

There were three pair of undressed leather shoes. Two small brass kettles. A large roll of sailcloth. Some woollen frocks and trowsers. A good firelock ; but no powder or shot. A great number of spikes and small nails. Some knives without springs, like our clasp knives, but open, with a stopper behind. About twenty balls of twine. Six hatchets. Some chissels. Three saws—with plenty of fish-hooks, and a pair of shark-hooks. A dozen of fish grainges, tied together, quite new. Two felt hats, and above a dozen new ones, made of straw. A bag of fine Lima beans. Four hammers, and one mallet.

But there was one thing which gave me much concern—a bloody shirt. On sight of this, I began to suspect their honesty ; and that possibly they had procured these things by violence and murder. However, without further knowledge, it would be unfair to conclude them guilty ; and to entertain such an opinion of them would be a perpetual source of uneasiness.

I was resolved not to meddle with their booty ; and whether any thing was concealed beneath what I had seen I knew not.

Mr Harry I found very inquisitive and busy in examining their whole cargo ; but I checked him, lest they might be displeased and leave us in a pet, which would have given me much concern.

CHAP. VIII.

I HAD been on this shore about four years and three months when these Indians arrived. They now began to cut down stuff for erecting a temporary hut for themselves. Harry and I assisted them, with which they were much pleased. They inquired particularly how I was first cast on this shore; and as I found they had got some knowledge of it from Luta, I bid her tell them the whole.

In about three hours the hut was finished, close to that of Harry; and they prepared to rest for the night. On the morrow, I proposed that Harry and two of

the Indians should go out to strike some fish, viz., Futatee and the other, keeping Komaloot with the girl and me. They returned with some fine fish, which I ordered to be cooked for our voyage.

The next morning we all put off, and had a pleasant trip of it. When we arrived at the spot, they all agreed that it would suit much better than the old habitation, but that I must expect to be troubled now and then with the tigers and wood cats; that Harry must likewise keep a good look out after the piccaries and warrees, or they would devour all our yams, and other things.

This was a new and perhaps a useful piece of information, as I had never once thought of any thing of the kind, having never seen any in all the time I had been there. I was nevertheless determined to settle on that spot; and I observed to them, that I had never seen any tigers whilst I lived at the cave. They said, that was very

likely ; as those creatures never frequent low mangrove grounds, being much disturbed at the noise of the sea, and finding little game in such quarters. But if they should chance to make us a visit, we had only to show them some fire, and they would soon run off, and that even smoke continued for a time seldom failed to make them quit that quarter. Then pointing to Miss Doe, observed, that she would be apt to draw them about us. I was so prepossessed in favour of the place, that I was resolved to run all risks.

We now took a general view of the place, while Harry prepared the fish for dinner. Having finished our meal, we all got into our canoes, and returned to our old habitation again. On the morrow I proposed to look out for some turtle. Our party consisted of Futatee, his companion, Harry and myself, leaving Komaloot at home with Luta. We followed our sport for two days, in which time we took

no more than six turtles. Three of them I reserved for ourselves, and placed them in the crawl ; the others they roasted, after their slovenly manner on the coals, for their use as they returned home to their friends.

They now began to think of departing. I put Luta upon begging from them a few of the articles out of their canoe, which would be of great use to us, promising, at the same time, that we should be always ready to lend any of their countrymen that should land on our shore all the assistance in our power. Upon this they held a council together ; then asked what we desired, and they would be ready to make an exchange with us. I desired her to inform them, that as to offering them any thing in exchange, they must see it was not in our power. Komaloot then took me to the canoe, and asked Harry what I wanted. I pointed to the hatchets, kettles, twine, &c. but what I seemed most to wish for, were

the very things they were least willing to part with. He then took up a pair of shoes, and offered me them. I gave him to understand that they were of no use to me, I was become an Indian like themselves, and that my wants must be similar to theirs. This produced a fresh consultation. At last Futatee and Komaloot spoke a great deal to Luta, which she thus explained to me; that they advised us to go and reside among them; they would answer for it we should be treated with kindness, as I had been so good to Luta and Harry. I began to suspect this was only an evasion, to excuse them for not parting with any of their cargo to supply our necessities. I therefore desired her to inform them, that I was fearful, if I accepted of their offer, that I might through ignorance of their customs give them some cause of offence; and of all other things I wished to avoid the Spaniards; so it was best that I should remain where I was.

That I should always be glad to see any of them at my poor habitation, which, by removing to the other place, would now be made much more convenient ; but if Harry had the least inclination to return with them to see his friends, I would by no means wish to detain him. His sister, I believed, had no such wish to leave me, as we lived together in great love and harmony. Upon this they observed they had no room for Harry, whatever his inclination might be, as their canoe was too full. Luta then retorted on them sharply, that having so much they would not part with any thing to her. This occasioned a loud laugh, and a great deal of jabbering among themselves ; after which, they took her by the hand, and led her to the canoe, to shew them what she wanted. She pointed to one of the kettles. They gave it to her. Then they asked me what I chose. I told them Harry wanted an axe. They gave him one. I observed they had many

knives, and we wanted some. They gave us three, with some of the twine. I asked for a few of the Lima beans to plant. They offered me as many as I would have; and finding them in a complying humour, I hinted that sailcloth would be very useful to us. We had this also. But it was with the greatest difficulty they would spare us a few spikes and nails, as they valued them more than any part of the cargo. They readily gave us three of the sanebraros or straw hats. I now thought a little flattery might be useful; and intimated, by means of Luta, that I had taken a particular fancy to Komaloot. The bait took, and I was presented with a shark hook, and two of the new fish gigs. These I valued greatly. They likewise gave me a hammer and a saw, with a parcel of the small fish hooks.

The next day they prepared to leave us; but when Harry found this, he took Luta aside, and desired that she would intreat

them to procure him a wife. This caused much mirth; but as Luta and I joined seriously in the petition, they said when they got home they would advise with their people about it, and endeavour to comply with our wishes; and observed, that if they should return to us again, they should come in canoes, as they had never been at our place by land.

They now took their leave in a very friendly manner. We accompanied them to the beach, saw them set off, and remained near an hour watching them. It was wonderful to see with what expedition they paddled away; yet the canoe was so full, that I should have been afraid to have trusted a favourite dog in her, unless it was to go along shore, where he could swim for his life. While they remained with us, I tried by every possible means to learn what part of the coast I was upon, but could not succeed. I found that I was on the continent, and not an island as I

supposed. They would sometimes mention Carthagena, and a few other places. They told me no Indians lived within four days journey of me, but that there were a great many to the northward, with whom they never talked or walked. When we returned back to the cave, I was surprised to find the shoes and gun among the mangroves, but supposed they had forgotten them. I observed, that for two or three days after their departure, Luta and Harry were quite dull, and out of spirits. As I went into the cave, I was greatly surprised to see on a ledge three dollars. I called Luta to inquire about it. She told me they had it out of the canoe, from under the sailcloth, and that they had as many as would fill the wooden bowl. These were of little value, an equal number of nails would have been infinitely more precious to me.

The next business I took in hand was, I must confess, somewhat out of my line,

but my fair countrywomen will, I am sure, excuse this exercise of my ingenuity, when they know to what purpose it was applied. It was no less than to make my lady a petticoat out of the fragment of sailcloth the Indians had left me, by the help of a sail needle, and a little twine. I completed this garment in a very workmanlike manner, and shewed her how to put it on. She was so highly pleased with it, when I told her my country people wore the same, that for two or three days she did nothing but admire it as she walked along, and put herself into such strange attitudes to shew it off, that it created me much diversion. It was somewhat of the shortest, I must confess, which gave her a more comic appearance, as it did not reach above a foot below her waist; but necessity will sometimes impose strange variations in the costume of female habiliments, which are not otherwise to be accounted for. I can offer no apology for the

scantiness of my wife's petticoat, but the obligation I was under of complying with the old proverb, of "cutting my coat according to my cloth."

It now came into my head to add a still greater polish to her manners, by teaching her how to make a courtesy, and Harry to make a bow. My lessons, I must confess, were not in the first style of elegance, but they were copied in a manner so truly diverting, as to afford me great entertainment; and whenever Luta observed me to be more thoughtful than usual, she would every now and then drop me a courtesy, till she forced me to smile.

I now determined, by means of my tools, to fit my canoe for sailing. I cut the old boat's rudder, and made a thwart to fix amidships, prepared me a small mast suited to my canvas, and when my sail was made, I cut a sprit for it. All being ready, I took a short trip in her with Harry and his sister, and found her work well.

The next thing was to examine her bottom, and for this purpose we got her capsized on the beach. Harry and I now began to peg up all the worm holes, then covered her over with a large quantity of boughs, to keep her from rending, while we went in quest of a shark or two. Accordingly, we went the next day in the small canoe, but were a long time before we met with success ; at last we hooked a shark, killed him, and brought him home. We prepared his liver in our brass kettle, and then payed the boat's bottom with it. Some of the oil we used to burn at times in a shell, but we found they soon cracked, and became useless. Harry having discovered a sort of wood which burnt like a flambeau, this suited our purpose better.

Being now on the remove, I resolved to examine my reckoning, and mark it down. I found my account stand at my leaving the cave, at four years and six months.

We contrived to convey our moveables thus : Harry took charge of Miss Doe, and a few other things, the rest I stowed in my large canoe, accompanied by Luta. I bade him paddle away a-head, as I had a large wind ; but I soon fore-reached him, and arrived first, landed my lady, and waited for him. He followed me in about half an hour. We then carried up all our furniture to the castle, the name I gave to our new habitation. Having arranged every thing in a proper manner, Harry and I set off to strike some fish, at which sport he was very skilful. It was not long before he struck a fine snook fish, sufficient to serve us for two meals. When the evening came on, we made three large fires before the entrance of our castle, as a guard against the tigers ; when this was done, we got a few palmetto leaves out of my canoe, and made our beds for the night, but we had little sleep ; our minds were in some degree agitated with our removal ;

every thing was new and strange to us, and we were not entirely without apprehensions, though our fears had no particular object. Nothing disturbed us during the night, except that a bat or two now and then flew out and in.

Early in the morning, Harry and I went down to the lagoon, and cut a way into the mangroves, leaving a good shade over head. Here we docked our two canoes. The rest of the day we employed in putting all our matters in more exact order; but it was more than a week before I could at all reconcile myself to my new habitation. My mind was still haunted with frightful ideas of wild beasts; but my two companions were visited by no such fears, and slept soundly.

The first piece of work we entered upon, was to make a stool for each of us to sit on, and a new table. For these purposes, I ordered Harry to fell a few small trees, such as we could conveniently manage. I

undertook to cut them in lengths, and saw them through. It cost me much labour before this work was finished, and rough enough they were when made, but they served as well as more costly furniture, for the use we applied them to.

I chose the inner part of the cavern for our bed chamber, and made fire in it to expel the damps, and drive out the bats; the outer part was for Harry, somewhat apart from us, and out of our view; in his station, he was our guard from any sudden surprise. Thus we continued for two months, without the slightest interruption. I began not only to be reconciled, but charmed with our new dwelling.

One afternoon we were suddenly alarmed by a most unusual noise. Harry ran out, but soon came back, calling out loudly for assistance. No sooner did I get out, than I saw poor Miss Doe flying home with a tiger-cat sticking fast between her shoulders. I was much enraged, and

snatched up one of the hatchets : Harry followed me ; we were soon up with the animal, and I dispatched it with a single blow. The poor deer was so mangled, that I saw it was impossible for her to live ; I was therefore under the necessity of knocking her on the head. I cannot describe how painful this office was to me, but I considered it as an act of mercy. Poor Harry could not tell what to make of it ; he seemed to look at me with surprise mingled with horror ; but I soon convinced him, by shewing him the dreadful state of the poor creature, that it was impossible for it to live, and the short time it could exist must be passed in extreme misery. Thus I lost my faithful, my sportive companion.

The event had scarcely happened, when I began to wonder at my ferocity. I repented for what I had done, though my reason convinced me I had not acted improperly. It was the sudden impulse of humanity, to relieve a suffering animal

from a state of torment. For the moment it became a matter of feeling only. I felt as if I had committed a crime, and wept bitterly. All this time Luta kept at a distance. Harry took some pains to explain the transaction to her. Since the matter was so decided, we thought it necessary to skin the poor animal. During this operation, Luta continued weeping; indeed, we were all three greatly affected at the loss of this affectionate and diverting creature, and mournfully viewed her remains, with regret and sorrow at our hearts.

Some time after, Luta observed to me, that this was a most unlucky beginning; she wished she had remained at the old cave. I endeavoured to laugh her out of this most foolish prejudice, and assured her, that we were equally under the protection of Providence, here as at the other place; that we had no dangers to apprehend but what we were able to provide

against. Notwithstanding all my reasoning with her, I was very uneasy at having such troublesome and dangerous neighbours, and made it a rule to light up a large fire twice a week, which answered our purpose completely, as it was some years before we saw any more of them ; and wherever we went, Luta always accompanied us, to prevent the possibility of an accident.

After we had been here for a considerable time, we went one day along shore to the southward of our lagoon. We found the water very shallow, with a small current setting north. As we were paddling on, I spied a long range of a small kind of red rushes in the water, as I supposed them to be ; but, on further examination, found them to be the horns of multitudes of cray fish. We pushed our canoe amongst them ; and grasping a handful of their horns, threw them into the boat. Indeed we could have loaded her with them if we had

been disposed, for they were by no means shy.

These cray fish are of a light freestone colour, spotted with black and yellow ; and some of them do not weigh less than four pounds ; of which sort Harry struck several afterwards.

The discovery of these fish was a very important service to us, as it provided us with a variety of food ; and we returned home joyfully with our cargo. The poor deer's skin Harry dressed in the Indian fashion ; and it served me for a jacket, with the hairy side outward, without sleeves, as I was not taylor enough to complete that part of the work ; but, upon the whole, I acquitted myself tolerably. I was not a little proud of it, as it spared the few clothes I had left ; and going naked, though I was so much accustomed to it, was attended with one inconvenience which was extremely troublesome. This was oc-

casioned by an insect called the doctor fly, about the size of our common hive bee, and shaped somewhat similar, but its head is of a bright Saxon green. No sooner do they find out an object that suits them, than they dart at it, and instantly make the blood fly out, like the touch of a lancet.

By this time Mrs Penrose was far advanced in the way of increasing our family; on which account I took more than ordinary care of her. Harry was so proud of it, that he was continually talking to me on the subject; asking me what name I would give the child, &c. &c.

We now began to clear a good road up the hill with our hatchets, that we might the better come at the top of the cliff over the entrance of our castle. This we did by spells—a day now and then—until my reckoning proved that I had now been another year complete on this island.

CHAP. IX.

SIXTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

AFTER we had cleared round the top of the cliff, we could survey the whole coast far and wide, and could plainly perceive the great danger ships of burthen would be in, if they approached it too near; as there was nothing but rock, sand banks, reefs, and currents, with eddies and breakers, to be seen along the whole coast. It was, therefore, no wonder I saw so few vessels.

One day I took occasion to ask Harry if he could tell me what his name meant in English? This puzzled him not a little;

but after conversing some time with his sister, they agreed that Ayasharry signified a swift runner, or a light-footed person. I then bid him translate Luta's name, and they said it signified green grove—that Komaloot meant a finder or searcher, and Futatee a bald eagle. Codu-uno, the name of the old man who died in the boat, signified a man of great strength.

One day as I ascended the hill to look out as customary, I thought I discovered something like boats, off a point to the southward. On this the spy-glass, for the first time, came into my head; so I returned for it. Harry was at this time gone a fishing; but returning soon, we went up together, and found that, as I suspected, they were boats or canoes. Harry began to whoop and dance for joy; he said Komaloot was coming with three canoes. I found on this, as on many other occasions, that the Indians can see distinctly at a much greater distance than Europeans.

However, in this instance, his joy had made him exaggerate; as by the help of my glass, I could see plainly there were but two canoes. I laughed at him on this, and observed, that one canoe was large enough to bring him a wife. This made him shake his head, saying, he believed they would not do him that service; now his father, mother, and old Codu-uno, were dead.

We now saw them come round the end of Long Key, and put right away for our dwelling. I could count eight people. We all three got into my canoe, and went down the lagoon to meet them. As soon as we got out, we made up a fire. This they saw; and when they came within hail, we gave a good shout—they answered us. I bade Harry and Luta dance with me, to shew them how glad we were to see them.

The first man who jumped out was Komaloot. He ran to meet me, and I him.

After embracing, he said, Yalut-ta? I pointed to the fire where she stood. He then ran and took her in his arms—shook hands with and hugged Harry. By this time they were all landed. A fine scene now presented itself to me.

Nature, undisguised nature, began to display her full powers. They all ran together in a cluster, fell to weeping, laughing, hugging, and even went so far as to bite each other. One of the men threw out of the boat some arms, and then fell to dancing. This I knew betokened friendship; and I kept dancing and singing at such a rate, that had any of my own countrymen seen me, they would have thought me as much a savage as the rest; but I knew it to be my interest, as a stranger among them, to shew these demonstrations of joy at seeing them, and bidding them welcome.

My visitors were as follow: Komaloot and his brother, called Vatte-queba, (this

person was the husband of Luta's sister,) his wife Lama-atty, Owa-gamy, (this man seemed to be of some authority among them,) Futatee, who visited us before, Dama-santo, and Zula-wana; and lastly, Carawouma, with a little boy in her arms, aged about two years, called Quea-ruva.

We all embarked again for our castle, and arrived soon after. When they were landed, I made signs of the great joy their presence gave me, and then led them to our dwelling. I bid Harry to desire Komaloot to place them before me according to their dignity. When he was made to understand this, he took Owa-gamy by the hand, and seated him first. I desired him to bring me a few flat stones, which he did. I took one, and with the point of my knife scratched his name on it. I then asked him what it was in English. He said it was a traveller. This I wrote beneath it, and laid the stone in Luta's lap. The next that came was Zula-wana. They

told me his name meant a good canoe-man. I put down this likewise, and delivered the stone as before. Then came Vatte-queba, or the excellent fisherman; Futatee, the bald eagle; Lama-atty, or transparent water; Cara-wouma, or beloved darling; and lastly, the boy Quea-ruva, or the councilor. During the whole of this ceremony, they all sat in solemn silence, with their eyes fixed steadily on me; but as soon as I had concluded, Owa-gamy inquired the reason of all this. Harry told him it was for the purpose of learning their names, and fixing them in my memory. With this they were all very much pleased; and Owa-gamy, pointing to each, repeated their names again.

After this Komaloot took the young woman Cara-wouma by the hand, and began a long oration to me, now and then turning to Owa-gamy and the rest, as if for their assent or approbation. They all answered in one tone, like an amen in the

church. When he had finished, he sat down, leaving the girl standing. During the whole of this, Harry was smiling, and looking at his sisters, they nodding their heads in return, so that I soon began to comprehend the business. I then desired Luta to explain the whole to me in English in the best manner she could ; which she did thus :
“ Komaloot says, when he went back to our people, he told them, that they had seen my brother and me. No more dead. One white lost man, who had heart as big as great friend, had lifted up our lives again, and covered over the bones of good old man Codu-uno ; that Penoly had made one of three people, so that all agreed I was a great hearted man ; and for that reason, Owa-gamy came with them to drink clear water with me ; and, out of the great love they bore to Ayasharry, they had brought him Cara-wouma for a wife, she being willing, when she heard he was come alive again.” When she had finished, I took

the girl by the hand, led her to Harry, and made them join hands, in presence of the whole company. They all gave a great shout of approbation, and thus ended the ceremony.

I now began to think it high time to regale my visitors, but first desired Luta to inform them, that their coming so early in the day, prevented our giving them such an entertainment as we wished ; but if they would help my brother Harry in catching a few fish, we would cook them with the greatest expedition. Two of them immediately offered to accompany Harry, and I desired him to take them among the cray fish.

During their absence, Luta took her friends to shew them all the beauties of the place, and explained to them our manner of living and sleeping, &c. Owa-gamy observed many things to her, in regard to our future happiness, which she interpreted to me, and bid me remember to get some fresh water to drink with the

men, as it was always their custom with friends. I desired her to get me a calabash, and then went to the stream, and dipped it full, took Owa-gamy by the hand, and drank to him. This pleased him much, and he received it from me, and drank also. No sooner had this ceremony passed round, than they all began to sing, dance, and laugh with me, in a more free manner than hitherto.

The canoes soon returned with plenty of fish, which were speedily cooked. Then all sat down, and made a hearty meal. Our liquor was the pure stream that run from the rock. This done, I desired Harry to amuse his friends with a song, which he did in a very droll manner, with great variety of action, snapping of fingers, &c. When Harry had finished, they all got up, took each other by the hand, and began singing and dancing after their rude manner. They used but little motion, being no more than a kind of gentle trot, stopping

every now and then, to give a loud whoop. When they were pretty well tired with dancing, they retired to the porch of the cave, and fell asleep.

I grew so fond of the little boy, that he seemed delighted to play with me. He would sometimes touch my beard, and then shrink back to his mother, and hide his face. She asked Luta why I did not pluck it out as their men did. She told her it was not the custom in my country; that white men used to cut it off with sharp knives, but that I had none of them, and therefore let it grow. Lama-atty observed, she should not like to feel her husband's face so. Luta laughed at her for this, and then laid her cheek on the head of the child.

Luta told me, her sister had informed her, that they had brought some things in the boat for us, which I was glad to hear; and that Lama-atty said, she was glad to find her with child, as that would make me

love her harder; but Luta told her, that could not be, unless I was to eat her. This made me laugh so loud, that it awakened the men, who all came out to us. Shortly after Lama-atty said somewhat to Zula-wana. They went immediately down to their boats, and brought up to us a bundle of bass rope, four earthen pots made of fine red clay, about half a peck of Lima beans, some very small peas, rotten oranges, long sweet potatoes, and other sorts of roots; about three handfuls of Indian corn, mammees, avogatos, cashoo nuts, squashes, pompion, and gourd seeds, all in the planting way. They gave us also five cocoa-nuts and some cotton seed, with several other things, of which I knew not even the names. They brought with them two dogs, which, I must confess, I could not help coveting. They differed considerably from our dogs, were of a middle size, of the colour of rusty iron, with their ears erect, and broad faced, having

sharp snouts, and stump tails. I wished much for one of them, but was fearful of asking, lest I might appear greedy; but Owa-gamy, observing my fondness, made me signs that I should have one of them when they went away, to keep off the wild beasts.

The Indians now began to talk to Luta about planting, and gave her very good advice upon the subject. I asked their opinion about planting a fence round our abode, to guard us from the tigers, &c. This they strongly objected to, saying, the more trees we had about us, the more we should be troubled with the mosquitoes. I took their advice. They continued with us five days, when they began to prepare for their departure, collecting provisions for their voyage. I gave them every assistance in my power, and the fullest assurances of a hearty welcome, whenever they or any of their people would favour us with another visit. Just as they were

leaving us, Zula-wana took one of the dogs, and tied it to a stump for me, which made me quite happy. When they took boat, we accompanied them out into the bay.

At parting, I made Harry give them once more his song, which he did, and they all sang in their turns. Hearing the dog howl very much, I took the opportunity of asking them how we should feed him, as we had so little flesh. They laughed, and said, he would eat fish or fruit as well. I then desired to know when they would pay us another visit. They said after many moons, when they could walk by their neighbours with good countenances. By this I judged they were at war. I then desired Harry to inform them, that it was my desire they would never communicate my being on this shore to the Spaniards, as my nation was at war with them, and they would be glad to take and send me to work in their mines. I should then be for

ever lost to them and Luta. They one and all made signs that they would comply with my request, and would sooner be burnt with great fires than betray me; and I gave them full credit for their sincerity and attachment.

We kept them company as far out as the Long Key, and then took our leave, with much lamentation among the women, especially poor Luta, who wept bitterly on parting with her sister. I must confess that I was myself much affected; perhaps I was taking my last leave of some of the most affectionate and disinterested of mortals, who had supplied my necessities with the greatest attention and humanity, and had made a voyage of so many leagues for the sole purpose of visiting me, and anticipating those wants, which they well knew my forlorn situation exposed me to, by an ample provision of most useful articles. Yet these were untutored savages. I blush for civilized Europeans!

On our return, our first business was to make some wooden shovels to turn up the earth with. These cost us some trouble, as we were obliged to make them out of solid timber in the best manner we could. I began now to advise Harry respecting his future conduct to his wife, and desired that he would in every respect behave to her, as he should observe me do to his sister. As he saw I was very serious, he made me a very low bow, and promised to obey me in every thing, and in the present instance with the greatest pleasure. He then brought Carra-wouma to me, and desired that I would give her a new name, as I had before done to his sister and himself. I told him we would call her Patty; which was the first name that came into my head. He asked me what was the meaning of that name in English. This puzzled me a little. I told him, however, it meant fine girl. This pleased him very well, as perhaps any other would have

done. My family was now increased to five, including the dog.

Our next business to attend to was planting; and this I considered it would be best to begin at the old burnt ground, near our first habitation, as I was fearful we might be troubled here with the wild beasts; and as I had never seen any on the low coast near the sea, I thought that would suit us best. This occupation took us up more than a fortnight. We now found the turtles began to draw in for the shore, their time of laying being near. We followed them every day till we had caught eight. It then came into my mind that we were taking more trouble than was necessary; and I observed to Harry, if we watched them when they came on shore to lay, it might answer our purpose much better; we should then take all females, the males at this season being very lean, and not good for much. We followed this practice till we had turned so many we found it necessary to desist.

One fine moon-light night, as we were at this sport, Harry somewhat too impatient for the turtle to fix herself, she discovered him, and made at once back for the sea. Observing this, he ran and got astride on her back, grasping the forepart of her callipash. Seeing this, I ran too and got on behind, and Patty came and clung round my waist. Notwithstanding this, she was so large and strong, that she scrabbled us fairly into the sea. Patty tumbled off backwards. I slid off on one side and lost my hat; but Harry stuck on her, till she sank him up to his chin, and then he left her. This little adventure occasioned much laughter, and Luta had full enjoyment of the scene from the beach. Having regained my hat, we returned home for the night.

The next morning early, we returned to the scene of action, and with much labour, conveyed eleven turtles to our crawl, the least of which weighed near three hundred weight. We had at the same time

eight chicken turtle. We sometimes procured sea grass for them, with conches and welks, and it was surprising to see with what ease they cracked the shells, though they were as hard as flint.

We now passed our time easily and pleasantly, and wanted for nothing ; yet I must confess that I sometimes longed to taste bread, which had not passed my lips for some years. What little clothes I had left, were husbanded with the strictest care ; not for the use I made of them at present, but there was something painful in the idea of being deprived of them ; it seemed to shut me out from the possibility of returning to the world I had left, and confine me to a savage state for life. However fanciful this association may appear, I really felt that such a deprivation would have given me the pain I have described.

My lady now drew near her time, and we had the sad misfortune for Harry to fall sick. Patty proved a very tender and

good nurse, but I was sadly put to it; as he took to his bed of leaves, and was in a high fever. I found that Luta and Patty had some knowledge in herbs, and they made tea for him, while I prepared weak soups. He was at times delirious, and wanted to go a fishing, or to see his sister Lama-atty. Having no assistance, I was obliged to take all our concerns on myself, and go to the old cave for yams and turtle, and likewise to fish.

One morning early, as I was going on one of these errands, I met with a most serious alarm. Just as I got out of our lagoon, I beheld a sloop at anchor, off the end of the Long Key. I saw men walking along the shore, where they had pitched a tent. I was so affrighted, that I trembled in every joint. I had scarcely power to proceed or to put back. Recovering myself a little, I got within the point, being certain they had not seen me, as I was so close under the land. I put up the lagoon,

and made for our habitation. The first thing I did was to put out the fire. Luta seeing me much agitated, desired to know the cause. I waved it. But when she saw me take out the glass and run up the hill, she asked me if some of their people were coming. This was enough, Harry overheard her question, ran out, and ill as he was, would follow me. When we arrived at the top, I could plainly see five or six men clothed, and I knew them to be Spaniards by their broad hats. While I was looking, I saw them kindle up a large fire, and some of them went off on the ramble. I likewise heard the report of a gun, and saw the smoke. This at once convinced me they were not Indians, and I determined to avoid them with as much caution as possible. Harry had been so elated with the hopes of seeing his countrymen, that he acted as if nothing ailed him, and wanted me to go immediately to meet them. I refused. And as

I was carelessly leaning over a crooked stump, eagerly watching them, the root of the tree gave way, and tumbled me down the declivity for some yards, till I was stopped by a sharp pointed rock. I was much scratched and hurt, and lay quite helpless, as my leg and back were greatly torn by the stones. Harry called Patty, and between them they conveyed me down the hill. I was quite unable to move. Patty gathered medicinal herbs; my wife boiled them, and washed my wounds. I was very uneasy lest Harry should relapse. This and the enemy being almost at our door, troubled me sadly. However, contrary to my expectations, Harry kept upon his legs tolerably well, and after my wounds had been well bathed, I found my spirits quite revived, and that I was not so much hurt as I feared. I bade him go and hunt for the glass, and keep a good look out. He soon came back with it, and told me the strangers were not yet

gone. The next morning he went up very early, and said they were there yet, and were going about in a boat. My patience would hold no longer. I was resolved to go myself. Attempting to stand, I found my right leg was very stiff, so that I could hardly put it to the ground. Yet I was resolved to hobble up the hill, with the assistance of Harry and Patty. This I accomplished with some difficulty, and seated myself with my glass in my hand to watch the motions of the enemy. I found they were just striking their tent. As we had eaten nothing since their appearance, we now began to regale ourselves on some turtle eggs. They staid there all this day ; and we spent the second night in the same state of fear and uncertainty as the first. The next morning Harry brought us word they were all gone. I put my best leg foremost, and mounted the hill. They were out of sight ; but by the help of my glass I could just discover the sloop

standing close hauled to the eastward. Who they were or what was their errand, I never could learn, but felt glad enough that they were gone.

This happened about five years and three months after my landing on this shore. The next day Luta presented me with a son. I called him Owen, that being the name of my father. The following day was remarkable also, by my discovering a large ship in the offing. When I first observed her, she was a great way out, standing to the westward. We soon lost sight of her, and she never nighed the shore again. This was the first large ship I had seen near the coast in all my time.

A few days after this, an aloe began to blossom directly before our dwelling; it was surprising to see the rapid progress it made in a short time. I had seen many before, but never one so large, and so fair within view. In the space of twelve

days or a fortnight, it grew to the height of thirty feet, as I judged, full of the most beautiful tufts of yellow flowers, and scented the place all round. The humming birds, bees, wasps, and flies, were feeding all day on its sweets, so that it became quite a living habitation. It was visited by a particular sort of the humming bird, which had two feathers in its tail three times the length of the bird. In one point of view, it was profoundly black, but in another, shone with green and gold. Harry knocked one of them down with a blunt arrow, but struck away one of the long feathers out of its tail. I preserved it a long time, till it was destroyed by vermin.

One day as Harry was out on his rambles, he saw a green parrot fly out of the hole in an old palmetto tree; he examined, and found two young birds in the nest, which he brought home, scarcely fledged; he took great care of them, and continual-

ly fed them with guavas, and other wild fruits. At length they would eat yam and plantain, of which we found plenty in the woods, and Harry planted several from suckers. We had also a quantity of good squashes and pumpkins coming on, as every thing seemed to thrive rapidly.

Patty came on in her English very fast; and really in her person she was what might be called a fine girl, taller than Luta, and of a lighter colour, but not so plump, and somewhat older. Whenever we went abroad any where, Luta had a large piece of bark to fix the children on; and it cost me a pair of trowsers for baby linen. Thus we lived for a long time, without seeing a soul except our own family. We ate and drank, lay down and got up, just as we pleased, and without the least disturbance; each day was a copy of the foregoing; we were blessed with good health, and my companions had nothing to wish for.

For my own part, I must confess, I felt some regrets for the world I had quitted. I wished for one of my own country to converse with. Neither time nor distance had eradicated from my breast the love I bore to my native land. My social affections were warm and unabated; yet I reflected, that if I had been favoured with such a companion, it might have occasioned troubles which I had now escaped; and though I was taken from the joys of the busy world, I had none of its cares to torment me. Rancour or malevolence could not reach my dwelling; envy and strife were not inmates of my retreat. I had reason to bless God, for the deliverances he had vouchsafed to grant me, and to be contented with that portion of earthly happiness, which it had pleased him to prepare for me in this solitary desert.

At first I took a great dislike to the parrots, as they made a sad squalling noise.

However, as they diverted the rest of my family, I thought myself bound to bear with them. In a little time they began to chatter, and then I could not help talking with them myself. Luta took great pains with them, and taught them several things, amongst the rest, as she had a great dislike to my beard, she would take them on her finger, and teach them to say, "long beard, nasty, cut it off, cut it off;" then, "where Penoly fader, where Penoly moder?" and to speak all our names. If at any time they grew dull, they gave to each of them a bunch of goat, or bird pepper, when they would begin to chatter immediately; and if Luta saw me inclined to be melancholy, she would threaten to give me some bird pepper too.

Some time after, Harry came home, and reported that he had seen the wild beasts, more than a hundred of them. This surprised me much, and I asked how he had

escaped them? He said, he was not afraid of them.

“Of what sort were they, then?”

He told me they were a kind of hog with white faces. I therefore supposed them to be what I had heard called warrees.

“Why did you not set the dog to hunt them?” said I.

“No, no,” he replied, “too many; if dog catch one, all the rest bite dog to death.”

I knew Harry to be a skilful sportsman, therefore gave him full credit for this intelligence. I was however determined to invent some stratagem to entrap them; and set my wits to work for that purpose. In all this time I had never seen more than two tigers, and Harry one. We found that setting up a loud shouting made them turn tail at once, and this made me easier on their account; but I took great care never

to suffer either Luta or Patty to wander in the woods alone.

One day Patty brought home some of the candle fruit or cassia fistula. It is about the length of a foot ; and when green, and a quantity of them together, they hang dangling like myrtle candles from the tree. When ripe, they resemble black puddings in colour. She told me they were good, when put into hot water, against pains in the bowels or costiveness. The substance within resembles tar, and is very sweet. I used to dilute a small quantity of it in water, and squeezing a lime into it, make a very tolerable beverage. In colour it resembled coffee.

We had not tasted a guano for a long time, as none of them frequented our quarter, the soil not being sandy. We therefore determined on a voyage to Tower's Field to hunt them. As a necessary precaution, we took all our family with us, except the parrots. We left them behind,

in a sort of cage we had made for them, with plenty of victuals to serve till our return. We then put away down the lagoon. My wife, child, and self in the large canoe; Harry, his wife, and dog, in the other. Thus we proceeded to the old dwelling, where we went on shore, and took our repast. It now came into my head to visit the key where we had lately seen the Spaniards. We found the marks of their tent, the boom of an old oar, made of green heart, and exceeding heavy. At some distance we found a jar that would hold about three gallons. It was made of coarse earthen ware, and round at the bottom. Harry picked up a case with a knife and fork in it. They were very rusty, but we soon made them fit for use. They had sunk a barrel into my well, as a legacy to those who should chance to land there at a future time. We shipped our things; and just as we were putting off, I picked up a good fishing line and sinker, but without a

hook. When we got over to the other side, we stood along shore, and arrived at our hunting ground. Our dog soon ran down four guanos, and we gathered a parcel of limes. We then put back to our old dwelling, where we slept that night, and the next morning reached home, found all secure, but can scarcely describe the joy of the poor parrots at our return; they did not cease to chatter all the day, and often repeated our names.

Harry was a very good marksman. I observed him one day strike a duck flying with his bow and arrow. Not thinking myself too old to learn any thing that was useful, I was resolved to become his pupil, and desired him to make me a new bow, that I might learn to shoot at marks with him. I knew this would be useful, particularly as I found, in the above instance, that our dog hunted like a spaniel, though not at all resembling that species, and would take the water very freely. I gave

him the name of Swift ; he never barked, but in the night would at times give a long howl.

Thus our time passed on, till I found I had been on this shore five years and nine months. The rainy season now came on ; and we kept much within doors, if I may be allowed the expression, when our habitation had no door at all. Our cascade was now become a foaming cataract of red water, thick and muddy. It continued this sublime appearance for more than a fortnight, and then subsided by degrees. We used to fill our large jar and calabashes, and set them by to settle, till fit for use. In regard to food, we fared sumptuously ; seldom wanting a boil, a roast, or a stew. When Harry killed the duck, he made a short wooden spit, and stuck the bird on it ; he then fixed it in the ground, inclining to the fire, turning it now and then till it was done. Our guanos we always stewed.

When the wet season was past, Harry proposed to go out and strike some sting-rays. He said they had bones in their tails fit to make arrow-heads. As this is a fish little known in Europe, I shall give a description of it.

They resemble thornbacks; and I have seen some of them that would weigh more than two hundred pounds. Just at the dock of its tail are fixed those bones, one above another. I have seen them with three, point behind point—they are very sharp at the end, with exceeding fine teeth on each side. As they lie flat on the tail, the teeth are in a contrary direction to their points; so that when the fish is irritated, it erects the tail, and darts these spears into its enemy, tearing out the flesh wherever it strikes, and leaves great anguish in the wound for a long time after, as I have felt by experience. Their skins are sharp grained like a shark. There is another kind of them, whose skins are ex-

ceeding hard and rough; and are sometimes brought to Europe for the use of cabinet-makers. This is called the rasp-ray. There is yet a third sort of them called the whip-ray. This differs from the others by having the head somewhat resembling the tortoise. The back is bluish, with studs of small white circles all over it. The skin is very smooth and shining, with a tail black as jet, and of such a length, that one of the size of a common thornback shall have its tail at least six feet long.

In pursuit of this fish, Harry went in his own canoe, and was out almost the whole day. He brought home about seven bones, having struck three fish. He said what had detained him so long, was in consequence of the last he struck, which being a very large fish, the staff slipped out of his hand as he made his stroke, and the ray immediately made its way into deep water, with the spear sticking

in its back ; and had it not returned again to the shore, he would have lost the whole, which we could not very well spare, and should have felt the want of greatly.

CHAP. X.

SEVENTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

THIS year commenced with an ill stroke of fortune to me, which happened thus. We all took a small trip to the cave for yams and potatoes. While I was there I took it into my head to bathe in the sea; but I paid dearly for it. After swimming about for some time, I had an inclination to come to shore; and feeling with my feet for the ground, I felt something suddenly dart into both of them, which gave me most excruciating pain. I scrabbled to shore as well as I could; but the moment I left the water, fell down on the sand.

Harry ran to know what was the matter with me, and found both my feet full of the darts of sea-eggs. By this time I was in such an agony that I was ready to faint. He directly ran for Luta and Patty; and with some difficulty they got me into the canoe, put on my clothes, and then hurried me home as fast as possible. By this time my feet were so swollen that I could not put them to the ground. They were forced to carry me to bed; and having laid me quietly down, Luta got some prickly pear leaves, split, and then toasted them at the fire, and applied one to each foot, binding them on. From this time till the next day I remained in a high fever; it then somewhat abated. She took off the leaves, and my feet appeared as if they had been boiled. The thorns came all away with the leaves, and I was soon easy, but could not walk for three or four days, they were so excessively tender.

These sea-eggs are of that class of beings that seldom move from their station. They are of many different sorts, shaped like an orange, divided into curious lines of partition, spotted with green, yellow, red, and brown. Some have no thorns at all ; but the sort from which I received my injury, have darts four or five inches long, and are black. These darts they play about in the water, directing them, as a man would a sword, any way they list.

Soon after this, we were entertained with a very diverting scene. One of the parrots got out of its cage and flew to a distance. It rested at length on a cashoo tree, and continued there for some time, pluming itself, and enjoying its liberty. A flock of wild parrots passing over discovered it, and immediately, as by general consent, settled upon the same tree. Patty saw them first, and called us to partake of the entertainment ; and it proved a truly comic

one. They began by walking side-way up to the tame bird—placed their heads parallel to his—then one of them gave him a peck, and another overhead did the like. The bird held up his leg to ward off the blow—others would give him a slap with the wing. At length they all gathered round, and began to pay him off at a terrible rate. Upon this the poor bird called loudly, “Harry ! Harry ! run quick.” The moment he began to speak, they all flew away, screaming like mad things, and to all appearance terribly frightened. Our parrot began to laugh loudly, flew home to his cage, and began to chatter to the other bird, who now and then made an odd kind of noise, as if it understood all that was said. This diverted Harry so much, that he quite rolled on the ground, laughing violently.

Soon after this, Harry expressed a desire to go after the flamingos. I consented ; and he took the dog with him the next

morning, in the small canoe. He did not return that day ; but knowing that he had materials for making fire, and that he was at a considerable distance, I did not make myself uneasy.—An Indian is at home every where, by night or by day.

The next morning was opened with a new adventure. I called Patty to rise and make the fire, as her husband would soon be home. She went out to fetch wood ; but soon came running back to us, crying, “ there was great thing—dog—fell down—from top—over head ! ” I could not comprehend the meaning of this ; so got up and followed to the entrance of the cave where she was making the fire, when down came another animal. I took courage to examine further, and found they were piccaries, and both of them embowelled. This I considered as some of Mr Harry's fun ; but as the dog did not come in as usual, I was puzzled to account for it. Presently I heard a loud laugh over our

heads. I was alarmed, and snatched up an axe, resolved to stand my ground and defend myself to the last. A voice now called out distinctly, "Yalut-ta! Yalut-ta!" Upon which I answered, "come down Mr Harry, and let us have no more of your dog tricks." And indeed I began to be angry with him; and my spirits were so hurried, that I did not notice the different pronounciation and tone of voice. An Indian now shewed himself, and I presently discovered him to be Komaloot. Upon this I called Luta and Patty, being quite overjoyed, and made signs to him to meet me. I ran at once up the hill, and found Komaloot, Owa-gamy, Zula-wana, and a young Indian I had never seen before, called Sama-lumy. I saluted them all, and they returned it with cordiality. They were all four armed with bows and arrows, and maschuts or cutlasses. When we got down the joy was universal. Komaloot took the child in his arms, and hugged it.

They inquired for Harry. Luta told them he was gone after flamingos. I then asked how they came so secretly to surprise us? Owa-gamy told Luta, that being out in search of game, they came to a fine open country, and Komaloot made the proposal to find out our place, to which they all agreed. After some days they found they had gone beyond us, which they knew by getting up a large tree, from which they discovered a smoke on the right, near the coast, which they concluded must be our abode, and immediately turned off for it. In their way they met with a few piccary hogs, and killed two of them. They gutted, and cut out their navels, intending them as a present for us.

N. B.—The navel of this animal is on its back ; and if not cut out as soon as the beast is dead, the whole carcase taints soon after.

He said they discovered us at last by the great smoke Patty made in lighting our

fire, as Sama-lumy was then got up a tree quite near our habitation. They soon came in sight, and then called a council, in which it was determined to proceed in the manner they had done, lest their sudden appearance should alarm us too much. I desired Luta to return them my thanks for their good conduct.

While Patty was preparing a repast for our visitors, the dog came running in; and I knew Harry was at no great distance. The poor animal was quite transported at the sight of his old masters. Harry now made his appearance, quite in scarlet, from head to foot, with his flamin-gos—his great straw hat on his head; in one hand he held his bow and arrows, and in the other a quantity of plantains. When he saw our family was increased, he stopped short. I called him to come on. The moment he discovered who our company was, down went all his cargo at once; and he began laughing, shouting, and dancing,

with many other grotesque expressions of his joy, at seeing his old friends.

Harry inquired for their canoe. When they told him they came over-land, he asked how many tigers they had seen. Upon this question, they sent the young Indian off, who soon returned with the skin of a tiger on his shoulders. This skin Owa-gamy presented to me. There was a very extraordinary greeting between our dog and two they brought with them. He seemed fond of shewing them every place, and took them all over the grounds.

We now began to inquire for their families. They told us Lama-atty had another child, a girl, and that they had made friends with the other Indians, after a long variance. I asked if the young Indian they brought with them was a capture? They said, no, he was a relation; that he was under some trouble, and they wanted to bury him. I could not understand this, and desired Luta to inquire what it meant.

Komaloot took Luta aside, and held her in talk some time. After this Luta told her brother to take the young Indian, and shew him all round the place. When they were gone, she told me it was the desire of our friends that I would consent to their leaving Sama-lumy to live with us for a time, for which they had a very good reason; that my agreeing to this would prove I had a true regard for them, and in consequence they would be happy to oblige me in all things; that Sama-lumy would serve me faithfully, and to the hazard of his life. I knew not what to think of this, and desired Luta would request them to be plain and open with me in this business.

Owa-gamy then took me by the hand, gave me a very piercing look, and made a long and very nervous oration to me, which he bade Luta to interpret. She told me that as her friends understood I was much in dread of the mines, they were so far

from discovering me to the Spaniards, that they would rather suffer death than betray me. Sama-lumy was now under the same terror, and they thought it best to bring him off to me, that he might be concealed till such time as he should be forgotten, or would grow out of their knowledge.

I at once took them by the hands, and desired Luta to tell them to confide in me, as their sure friend in time of need. On which they all thanked me. I then begged Luta to give me a relation of the misfortune that had happened to the young man. Sama-lumy, she said, had been to visit some of his relations, who lived among the Spaniards; that by ill-luck he had made free to hang round his neck a string of beads, with a little cross to it. As they were all playing together, he had the misfortune to break the cross, by striking another with it on the back: this was perceived by a little girl, who ran and informed a Padre of it, who was not far off. The

Padre came, and was very angry with him, called him perro savage, for presuming to meddle with it, for it was holy ; but that he would soon find him better employment in the mines ; then left him in a great rage. This so terrified Sama-lumy that he took the first opportunity of slipping away to his friends ; who, on his giving this information, had shifted from place to place, till they thought of this scheme of bringing him to us for better security.

I now saw the whole drift of this land visit, and gave them credit for their ingenuity and address. Owa-gamy told me, whenever the Padres fell out with those who had nothing to pay for an offence, they never ceased to pursue them by their arts, till they had obtained their revenge, though they pretended to pity them. They took care to have them taken in hold by an officer, and then they never saw the priest's face more, but were immediately conveyed to the mines.

Harry and Sama-lumy now returned. They were acquainted with what had passed. Harry was mightily pleased to have a companion, and the young Indian made me many signs of gratitude for consenting to his stay, and thus protecting him from the cruelty of the Spaniards. I desired Harry to get me a flat stone, that I might set down the translation of his name on it, and record the circumstance. I then asked what the meaning of Sama-lumy was. Luta conferred with Harry, and afterwards informed me that it was mountaineer. I put it down, and ordered the stone to be placed away among the rest. They now asked me how the seeds came on; and were informed, we had most of things now in plenty, except the oranges and coconuts. Owa-gamy said that would be many long moons first. He then directed his discourse to the young Indian; and as I was told, charged him to mind all my directions, and be my true and faithful friend;

to be sure to be obliging and tender to the women, &c. Sama-lumy begged they would leave him his dog. This they did ; then took their farewell, saying they would come again when they had time.

When the Indians were gone, I began to reflect on the probable consequences of this transaction. If the Spaniards should by any means come at the knowledge of it, it might involve my whole family in ruin. Admitting, therefore, the probability of their discovering my retreat, he must at all events be off, and not by his presence complete the destruction of those who had granted him protection.

One day as we were all three shooting at a coot, Harry told me Sama-lumy wanted a new name, that he might be considered as one of our family. I told him that was right, and he might call him Toby, if he pleased. He inquired if that was a good name. I told him it was ; that it was the name of a young man who took great

care of an old blind father. This was satisfactory, and he was called Toby from that day.

Thus we lived for a considerable time. Our little one began to waddle about. Harry's wife grew bulky, and promised an addition to our family, of which he was not a little proud. The burthen of providing for my family was in a great measure taken off my hands by my two assistants, and I only went now and then for my pleasure. One day as the lads were on the look out, they came down and reported that they saw a vessel out at sea. When I went to examine with my glass, I saw three; they appeared to be standing in for the land, with the wind at west. As they came in shore, I found two of them to be schooners, the other a sloop. They put about soon after, and we saw them no more till the evening, when they stood in again, then tacked, and left us for good.

and all. I made a memorandum of it on the side of the rock with my knife.

About this time I put my two messmates on digging pit-falls for catching the warrees and piccaries. This they laboured at for several days together, and dug six of them. We baited them with plantains, yams, potatoes, and the like. Now and then we used to catch one, but we were obliged to knock it on the head before we dared go down, they were so fierce and courageous.

I shall now mention a circumstance which led to a useful discovery. I asked Harry if he had ever seen a lizard with two tails, having been informed that such had sometimes been seen. He said he thought he had, and inquired of Toby. It happened soon after this, that Toby being out on his rambles, imagined he saw such a thing run under a bush. In poking his head after it, he met with a sad disaster. I

was the first who saw him return ; but he was so disguised and altered, that I scarcely knew him. He had stuck lumps of red clay all over him, one on his cheek, another on his leg, two on his thighs, and one on his breast. Some of them he had bound up with a sort of long grass ; and altogether he cut so strange a figure, that I called my family out to look at him. This made him laugh ; but the scene now became heightened beyond all description. His eyes were almost closed up, and his under lip swollen to an immense size, shewing his teeth so remarkably, that they laughed at him immoderately ; but as I was ignorant of the cause, I was more inclined to be alarmed than to be merry, at so melancholy a spectacle. However he soon made a shift to inform us of the adventure. Luta and Patty then made use of the old receipt ; and by the next day he was quite well, and gave us a droll account of the business.

The poor fellow thought he saw a two-tailed lizard run under a bush; and to satisfy his curiosity, he ran his head into a wasp's or hornet's nest, where he was stung to some purpose. His description was, "two tail go in—go in Toby—good look bush—maum come—maum maum bite Toby—run Toby, run Toby, no see two tail morrow." This accident gave us a knowledge of the clay he made use of; and I found by burning it in the fire that good earthen ware might be made of it, if we could shape it into vessels; but this was a kind of manufactory I but little understood. However I resolved to set my two messmates to work on this clay, and they brought a great quantity of it. I then made them temper it; and our first trial was thus: I got one of the large calabashes, and oiled it round, then daubed the clay all round it without, and by this means made a huge ugly sort of yabba or pot. After it had stood by to dry for a

time, we burnt it, and it answered tolerably well to hold water, and would boil things likewise, but from its size was very unwieldy. After this first rude essay, we made several other articles of domestic furniture, which were very useful.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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time, the first of which was a
well-to-do family, and a good deal of
the rest of the family was very
rich. After this first time, the
family, which was very rich,
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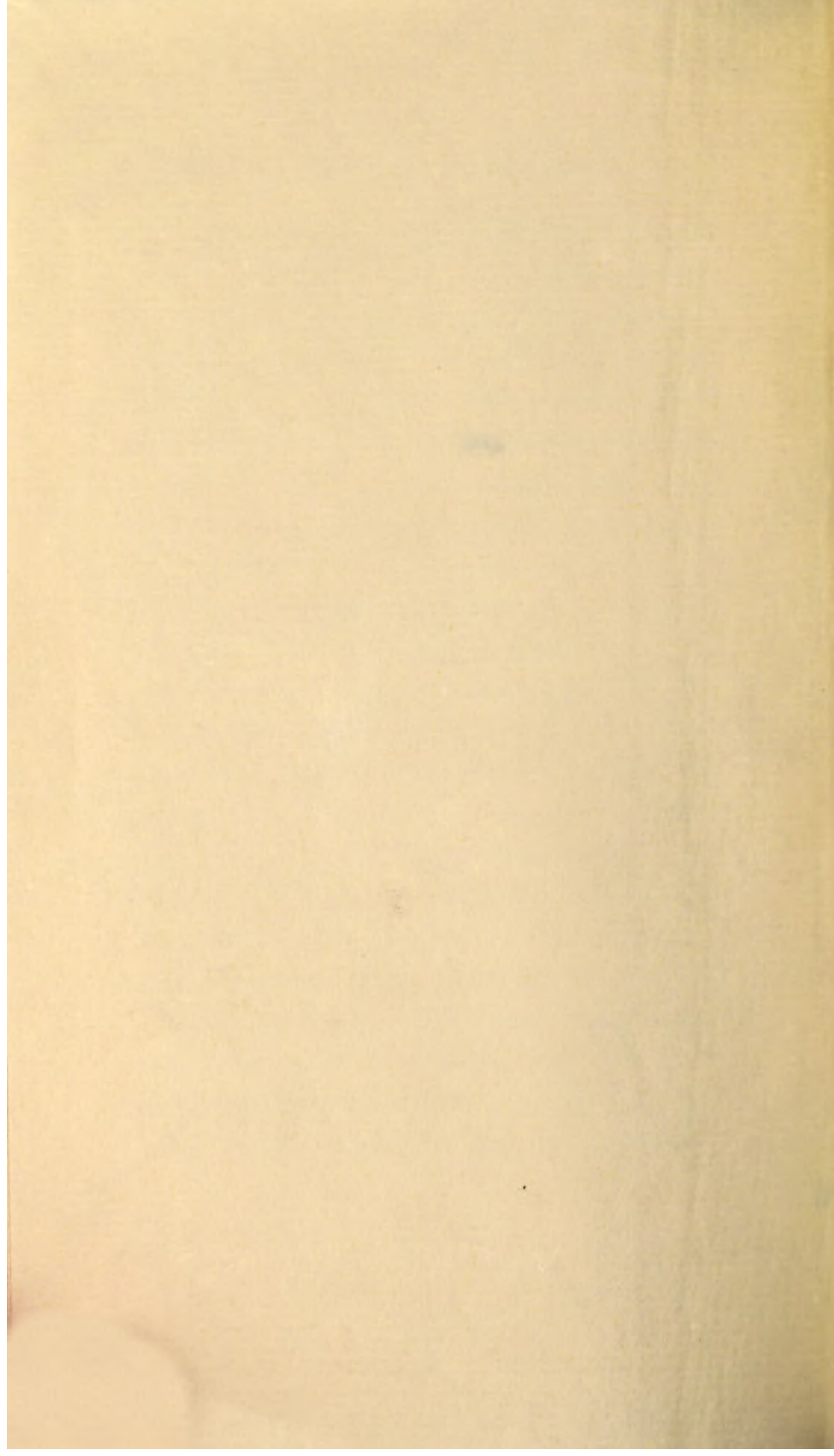
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